MacFormat ISSUE 207 May 2009

iTunes masterclass – unmissable new features and essential time-savers ● Genius Bar on test ● iTunes servers Group Test ● Buy a Mac for less on eBay

Printed in the UK

All your Apple needs

Mac FORMAT

ISSUE 207 May 2009

NEW iMAC AND MINI! APPLE'S GREENEST DESKTOPS

PLUS: All-new, talking iPod shuffle revealed!

FULL DETAILS P6

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

83 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE

We're the UK's no.1 Mac mag!

Enhancing your photos

Use iPhoto's new Adjust palette

Get creative with movies

Use iMovie '09's new editing tools

New reviews this issue

- Panasonic SDR-S26
- BeBook
- Cubase 5
- Jobo Photo GPS & more!

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HARRIS
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PLUS Full iPod Buyers' Guide inside!

iTunes masterclass

Unmissable new features and essential time-savers!

INVESTIGATED

GENIUS BAR
GENIUS BAR

Problem solved?

We test Apple's Genius Bar

REVIEWED

17" MacBook Pro

Latest Apple kit reviewed

GROUP TEST

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Sharing your music library

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www.mophie.com

Welcome

The humble Mac mini may be Apple's entry-level desktop machine, but the February update to the Mac line-up means that it's a seriously powerful machine. Aside from the extra ports around the back, the big news is the new NVIDIA GeForce 9400M integrated graphics inside. This is the same graphics card you'll find in the aluminium unibody MacBook, and it finally means you can think of the Mac mini as a games machine as well as a surprisingly good workhorse for professional apps like *Photoshop*.

Take *Spore,* for example, one of the most eagerly anticipated games for the Mac last year. It simply wouldn't run on a Mac mini with the old GMA 950 graphics chipset – something that frustrated quite a few Mac mini owners who purchased it without reading the small-print on the box thoroughly enough. However, it will run fine on the new Mac mini.

> "Apple is clearly saying that it's not interested in the low-price PC market"

But all that extra firepower comes at a price. The entry-level Mac mini is now £108 more expensive and, almost to add insult to injury, Apple has introduced a more expensive mini at £649 with a larger 320GB hard drive and more RAM. It seems Apple's answer to tough economic times is to make its products more expensive! Apple is clearly saying that it's not interested in competing in the low-price PC market that it was dabbling in before with the Mac mini. Is that a wise course of action? Please email in and let me know what you think.

I hope you enjoy the issue, especially our feature on *iTunes* – I certainly picked up a few tips that will help me manage my music. Join us next issue on 28 April, when we've got a big surprise in store. I won't give away too much, but look out for the June issue of *MacFormat* – it's going to be one to remember! ●

email: graham.barlow@futurenet.com

All your Apple needs
Mac FORMAT
ISSUE 207 May 2009
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All your Apple needs

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MacFormat investigates

Apple's Genius Bar

How good is the service?

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Reviews of Black & White 2, A Vampyre Story, Scrabble Journey and Democracy 2, plus new iPhone/iPod touch games

Start up

With fingers firmly on the Mac's pulse,
MacFormat brings you all the best Apple chat

Apple has upgraded its entire desktop range, including the popular iMac.

See p112 for full spec details of the new range

New Apple desktops

Presenting the newly upgraded Mac Pro, iMac and Mac mini

Apple's range of desktop Macs have been updated, with the Mac mini gaining NVIDIA graphics, new iMacs and the first Mac Pro upgrade to appear in more than a year. The upgrades should help Apple maintain momentum in its desktop sales, which appeared likely to decline in favour of strong demand for its laptops.

The new desktops are kinder to the environment, with low power-requirements (Energy Star 4), PVC-free components, and no brominated flame retardants. All ship with Leopard and *iLife '09*.

The Mac Pro finally gets a boost

Starting at £1,899, the Mac Pro sees the long-expected deployment of Intel's Nehalem-based Xeon processors.

Apple's Senior Vice President of Marketing, Phil Schiller explains: "The Mac Pro features an advanced system architecture, new faster processors and our best-ever graphics options to deliver a faster, more powerful system that our professional customers are going to love."

> "The Mac Pro features an advanced system architecture, new faster processors and our best-ever graphics options"

The on-chip memory controller in these Macs offers three channels of 1,066MHz DDR3 ECC memory, promising up to 2.4 times the memory bandwidth with up to a substantial 40% cut in memory latency. This means even the most demanding users will enjoy performance improvements.

Graphics performance triples on strength of NVIDIA's GeForce GT 120 graphics card with the even higher performance ATI Radeon HD 4870 available as an option. Internal components are easily accessible when you open the Mac Pro up, so you can easily expand your system – there's four built-in hard-drive carriers capable of hosting up to 4TB of storage. A RAID card is also available to maximise the integrity of data on your system. Both standard configurations ship with 3GB or memory, 640GB drives and an 18x SuperDrive. They

SNIPPETS

MacBook Pro upgrade
Apple's upgraded the high-end 15-inch MacBook Pro, offering a 2.66GHz Core 2 Duo processor, up from the previous 2.53GHz. Also available (+£206) is a 2.93GHz processor, which replaces the previous fastest available processor. All Pros and unibody MacBooks can now be configured with a solid-state 256GB drive (+£600).

NEW AIRPORT EXTREME BASE STATION

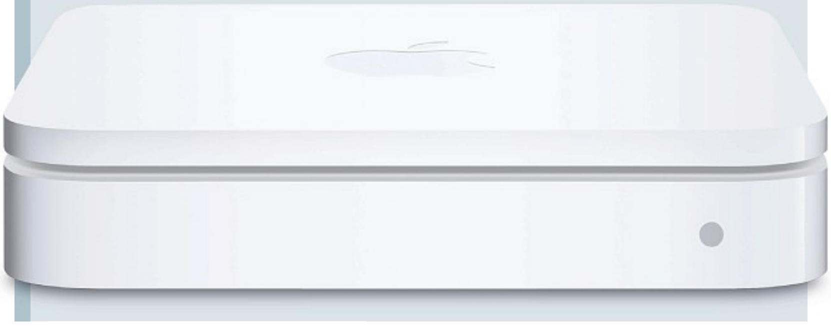
Apple has introduced more advanced AirPort Extreme Base Station and Time Capsule solutions with duel-band support. With wireless networks a *de facto* standard in the digital home, the new dual-band support means older computers can access the network on the 2.4GHz band, while more modern machines use the higher-speed 5GHz band simultaneously.

This means all WiFi-enabled devices get the fastest possible performance and the best range. New to both products is the **Guest Network** feature. This supports a secondary network for any visitors to use for individual internet access, meaning you can keep your main WiFi password safe and restrict access.

Better still, MobileMe has been upgraded so users can remotely access files that are held on a Time Capsule.

You need to register your Time Capsule through your account, after which they appear in a remote Mac's *Finder*, and allow file transfer.

AirPort Extreme Base Station costs £139 and Time Capsule £229 for the 500GB version, and £379 for the 1TB version. ●



also offer Bluetooth, four PCI Express slots, five USB 2.0 and four FireWire 800 ports. External monitors are supported by the included Mini DisplayPort and DVI outputs.

Two standard models are available, the 2.66GHz quad-core model (£1,899) and an eight-core (£2,499) version, which hosts two 2.26GHz quad-core Xeon chips. Faster processors (up to 2.93GHz) are available as build-to-order options.

iMac upgrades

There are performance boosts too in the new iMacs, with faster processors and twice the standard pre-installed memory (4GB for most models). Faster Intel Core 2 Duo processors (up to 3.06GHz), the latest NVIDIA graphics technology and larger hard drives (up to 1TB) come as standard in the all-in-one Macs.

Glossy displays are part of the aluminium and glass machines, as are integrated *iSight* cameras, a Mini DisplayPort connector, AirPort Extreme, Bluetooth and six total USB 2.0 ports (including two on the keyboard and a FireWire 800 port. An 8x SuperDrive, built-in stereo speakers and an Apple Keyboard and Mighty Mouse are included.

Prices begin at £949 for the 20-inch model, with a 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor, 2GB of 1,066MHz DDR3 memory, a 320GB hard drive and NVIDIA GeForce 9400M integrated graphics.

The £1,199 24-inch model hosts a 1,920x1,200-pixel widescreen display and includes up to a 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor, 4GB of 1,066MHz DDR3 memory, a 640GB or 1TB Serial ATA hard drive, and a variety of graphics cards: NVIDIA GeForce 9400M, GeForce GT 130 or ATI Radeon HD 4850 graphics.

Apple in numbers

30%

US consumers planning to buy a computer who'll choose a Mac.

A better Mac mini

This is Apple's first updated Mac mini configuration since August 2007. This revision has stamped on earlier claims that Apple planned to discontinue the product.

Both Mac mini models feature a 2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor, up to 4GB of DDR3 1066 MHz memory, up to a 320GB Serial ATA hard drive, five USB 2.0 ports, FireWire 800 and a SuperDrive. Graphics have been improved, with the deployment of the same NVIDIA GeForce 9400M integrated graphics used in current MacBooks.

However, while US prices remain unchanged, the most affordable Mac now costs from £499 in the UK – £108 costlier than the previously-available equivalent. This reaches £649 for the better model, with 2GB memory and 320GB hard drive. ●

DIALOGUE BOX

What they're saying about Apple

BRUNO TONIOLI http://tiny.cc/uoRpi

"I don't know if it was hilarious, or delirious. It was like a Teletubby going mad in a Gay Pride parade. You should have kept the boa on, it would have distracted from the feet!"

Judge Bruno Tonioli is scathing on Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak's dancing skills on his debut in *Dancing with the Stars*.

TONI SACCONAGHI www.bernstein.com

"Tim Cook stated that since Steve Jobs announced his leave of absence, he was spending more time on new products, how Apple could take the iPhone into new markets and examining iPhone's business model."

Analyst confirms Jobs remains in control.

RALPH DE LA VEGA www.att.com

"I can't speak to what Apple is doing in terms of new devices and new products, but I can tell you that our relationship has never been better. Both companies are doing well, we already like what we have seen."

CEO of AT&T Mobility, Apple's US network partner for the iPhone, hints at exciting developments this year.

STEVE BALLMER www.microsoft.com

"The truth of the matter is all the consumer market mojo is with Apple and to a lesser extent BlackBerry. And yet, the real market momentum with operators and the real market momentum with device manufacturers seems to primarily be with Windows Mobile and Android."

Microsoft boss shares his myopic smartphone vision.

GENE MUNSTER www.piperjaffray.com

"We see no indication that Apple is getting more aggressive on pricing in the difficult consumer environment."

Analyst observes Apple's refusal to reduce product prices.

RONN WERRE www.emi.com

"We are pleased to work with Apple and Depeche Mode to kick off *iTunes Pass*. It's a great new platform that will change the way artists engage with their audiences and build value for their music."

EMI chief on the latest *iTunes* feature.

Let us know if you've heard any good Apple quotes this month. Email them to **macformat@futurenet.com**

HOT

Will there be video chat for the future iPhone?
MF verdict: Given the company's focus on *iChat* we think a future version could definitely use a front-placed video-chat camera.

Apple netbook in development?
MF verdict: Apple execs play it coy, but a touchscreen Apple netbook could arrive perhaps as early as the second half of this year.

RUMOUR CONTROL

Our verdict on the month's Mac rumours

Ill health will force Steve Jobs to leave Apple
MF verdict: That's not what the executives told shareholders in February – they're confident Jobs will return this year.

Apple will finally license official Mac clones
MF verdict: The Psystar versus Apple conflict shows just how determined Cupertino is to resist licensing clone-Macs.

NOT

APPLE ON TV

Spotted…

Sexy and sophisticated BBC series *Mistresses* is a stylish window into the more-than-complex lives of four sassy women. And the programme doesn't miss a trick when it comes to setting the scene – Jessica Fraser's trendy events company is run on stylish iMacs. Naturally.

Spotted an Apple product on TV? Email the details to **macformat@futurenet.com** with **Telly** as the subject.

NEW iPOD SHUFFLE

The first talking iPod!

A smaller, talking iPod shuffle hits the shelves

Apple has launched a brand new version of the iPod shuffle that's half the size of the previous version and comes with VoiceOver, an exciting new feature, which speaks your song titles, artists and playlist names at the touch of a button.

"Imagine your music player talking to you, telling you your song titles, artists and playlist names," said Greg Joswiak, Apple's Vice President of iPod and iPhone Product Marketing. "The amazingly small new iPod shuffle takes a revolutionary approach to how you listen to your music by talking to you, also making it the first iPod shuffle with playlists."

Coming in black and silver, and with a suggested price of £59, the new 4GB iPod shuffle can even tell you status information, such as battery life. iPod shuffle can speak 14 languages including English, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish.

The iPod shuffle has long been criticised for the lack of a display, and VoiceOver seems to be an ideal way to find out the name of the track you're listening to. Look out for our full review next issue. ●

CREATIVE SOFTWARE

Painter 11 gets even more creative

Latest version of popular digital painting tool frees up creativity for artists

The latest version of Corel's industry-standard software for digital painting and illustration, *Painter 11*, is out now.

This release offers 40 new-and-improved features, including pressure-sensitive brushes; improved tools for drawing and customisable media.

Other tools include new artistic media brushes, new hard media brushes, and new selection tools.

Digital artists can create and customise brushes and media types to precise specifications, so they can achieve the exact image they are attempting to create. To help make the process more natural, Corel has also improved brush performance, claiming a 30% increase in response time.

Colour management has been improved in order to make the application more faithful when importing files from other applications. Each document can also be given its own unique colour profile, boosting colour accuracy.

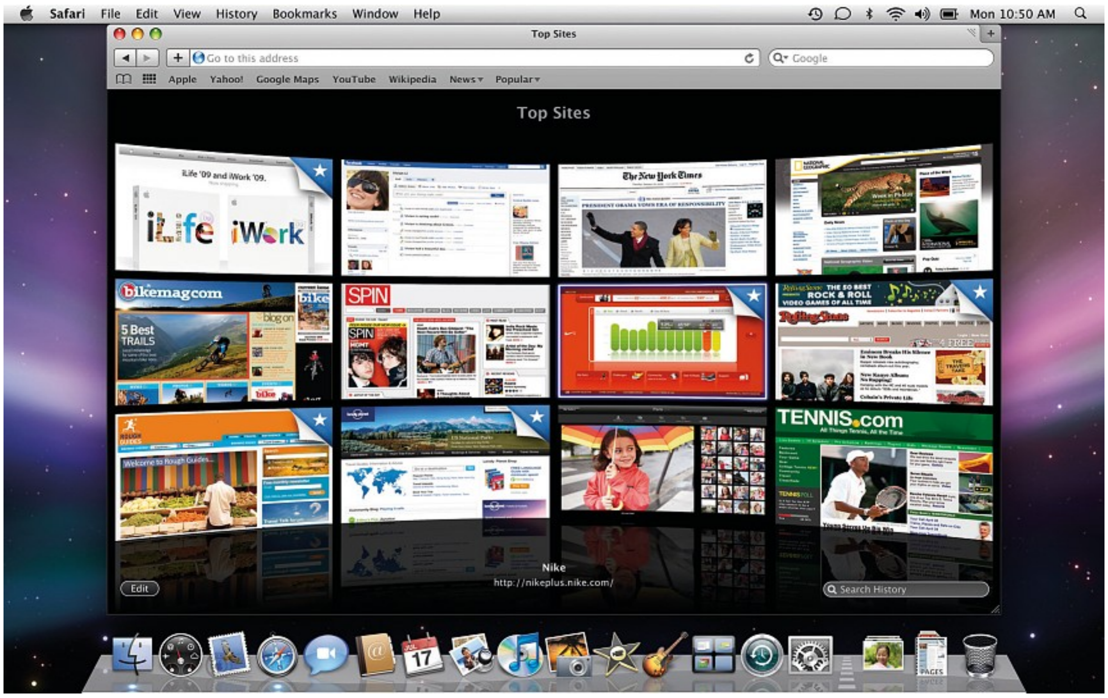
Customisable paper textures give creations an added edge, while fully-integrated support for Wacom tablets helps make using the software feel more intuitive.

Corel Painter 11
File
Edit
Canvas
Layers
Select
Shapes
Effects
Movie
Window
Help
Depth Of Field
Using: Uniform Color
Preview
Cancel
OK
COREL
painter 11

The developer claims *Painter* allows artists to experiment with colour theory and composition much faster than in a non-digital environment.

Corel offers more info at **www.painterfactory.com**, with video tutorials featuring leading artists at its own site (**www.corel.com**). Tutorials are also available at **www.paintboxj.com**. *Corel Painter 11* ships in Mac (OS X 10.4 or 10.5) and Windows. It costs £263 for the full version and £136.85 for the upgrade. ●

This is the most responsive version of *Painter* yet and it comes with a barrage of new features.



Safari 4 includes Top Sites to show most-visited pages.

SNIPPETS

Tap Tap Revenge 2
Tapulous has introduced *Tap Tap Revenge 2* for Apple iPhone and iPod touch (free). It features a new 3D game engine, 150 free tracks, and new gameplay modes, including support for group games: two-player mode, online multiplayer game rooms, and a Challenge mode.

Photoshop update
Adobe has shipped the *Photoshop 11.0.1* update, which addresses issues and improves speed. The update sees pen barrel rotation using Wacom tablets working, and Photoshop recognises 3D textures edited by a plug-in, while the **Auto-Blend Layers** outcome is improved. Updates for *InDesign* and *InCopy* are also available.

APPLE BUSINESS

Safari 4 gets super speedy

See our tutorial on page 56

The latest Safari 4 browser arrives in a flash

Speed and performance appear in focus within Apple's software development teams, as shown with the latest *Safari 4* public beta.

Available for Mac and Windows Vista systems, the software features functionality improvements and is faster than *Safari 3*, though reports suggest installation demands any pre-installed *Safari* plug-ins be removed.

The release suggests improvements within Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard and is expected to deliver improvements in its performance and usability.

"Apple created *Safari* to bring innovation, speed and open standards back into browsers, and today it takes another step," said Phil Schiller, Apple's Senior Vice President of Worldwide Product Marketing.

Safari 4 implements the Nitro engine, which runs JavaScript 4.2 times faster than *Safari 3*, though this is impacted by system and network configuration. Apple claims Nitro runs JavaScript up to 30 times faster than *Internet Explorer 7* and three times faster than *Firefox 3*.

New features include: a visual preview of frequently visited pages within **Top Sites**; **Full History Search**; and **Cover Flow**, which helps explore web history or bookmarks. **Tabs** has moved so they show at the very top of the browser window.

Safari 4 implements an array of web standards, including HTML 5 and CSS 3, enabling rich media and graphics on sites which support them. The former supports offline technologies, meaning web-based apps can store info locally without a net connection, while CSS 3 support enables graphics with reflections, gradients and more. The new **Full Page Zoom** lets you zoom in website elements without degrading layout and text. Search results now show up in a drop-down window underneath the Google search bar within *Safari*. ●

Apple in numbers

54

Apple CEO Steve Jobs's age as of February 24.

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New Mac pricing is bold but risky

With desktop PC sales falling are higher-priced Macs a bad idea?

ACROSS THE POND...

Apple updated its desktop line last month and with it sparked a furious debate over UK pricing.

In some cases Mac pricing went up a whopping £440 compared to previous models and it was even higher on Mac Pros. Apple critics and even its supporters took scathing shots on messageboards some valid, some not. There's little doubt the increases were meant to bring prices in line with the changing exchange rate. No one – not even Brits – can now argue that they are enjoying a great exchange rate, with the UK currently looking at nearer one dollar for 70p, at the time of going to press.

But Apple seems to have dismissed one important factor: a severe worldwide recession. As one blogger put it, "I was planning on buying a new Mac mini. Now I'm not. You can't justify these higher prices in a recession! I don't see other PC makers doing this." Good point. While I can understand rising prices to cover what will undoubtedly be lower unit sales, this is not a case of asking Apple to 'subsidise' the British Mac market. Instead, Apple should be looking at the current global financial situation and agreeing to take a hit on its margins.

> "Putting it simply, Apple hasn't adapted pricing to the economic crisis, but has instead chosen to preserve margins…"

But that kind of thinking is why I don't work for Warren Buffet. Apple's strategy has always been to offer more at higher prices without creating products at entry-level prices. Putting it simply, Apple hasn't adapted pricing to the economic crisis, but has instead chosen to preserve margins.

Is Apple's strategy risky? You bet. PC sales are off and the prediction is they'll be even worse into 2010. But as crazy as it sounds, it would be an even more brainless move for Apple to have raised prices in a stronger economy.

The only error in Apple's thinking is that they should have raised prices on iMacs and Mac Pros and lowered them on Mac mini's to gain market share with Windows switchers. In nine months we'll know if Apple's bet was a winner or a loser. ●

Brad Gibson is the producer and host of the *MacFormat This Week* podcast. Download it via *iTunes* or from www.macformat.co.uk.

iPHONE NEWS

Apple takes flash memory

Does huge flash order mean iPhone upgrade looms?

AT&T 3G
9:42 AM
Pizza
John's Pizzeria
Google
Search
Directions

Apple has secured 10% of the world's annual flash memory production, potentially to ensure supply for next-generation iPhones.

The company's acquired Samsung's flash memory output until April – indicating Cupertino's tied-up an estimated 10% of global production of the component. iSuppli last year indicated Apple secured 13% of global production, making it the world's largest OEM consumer of flash.

Apple has engaged in component supply deals before, reaching a five-year $500 million deal with LG Display Co for LCD display supplies. November 2005 saw a $1.25-billion deal to ensure flash memory supplies for the nano.

Market speculation suggests the next-gen iPhone line-up may include an iPhone nano, with DigiTimes saying Apple has already secured components for such a device from two Taiwanese firms. "The launch of Apple's iPhone nano is expected to take place in June this year at the earliest," that report said.

Barclays Capital analyst Ben Reitzes speculated a cheaper entry-level iPhone would widen Apple's addressable market, saying the device would be like an iPod, but without the capacity to run apps.

Critics question whether an iPhone without the apps would capture consumer imagination, but with Apple CEO Steve Jobs still involved in product design, Apple watchers are beginning to speculate new breed iPhones will debut on Jobs' return. ●

Apple in numbers

5 days

Apple leaves stock in hand for just five days (source: UBS)

STOCK WATCH

We keep our eyes peeled for Apple's market share

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website. For free real-time share prices go to www.advfn.com

As stock titans like the bank Citicorp become penny stocks and markets collapse, Apple holds a channel between $80 and $100 as if the credit crunch wasn't happening. It's an amazing feat of stock market resilience. It's amazing – period.

If the climate gets better, because the market is due for a bounce, Apple is bound to zoom up. If it can withstand the biggest crash in 80 years it will certainly rise if the market takes an upwards turn.

New, clean, smart technologies are taking over raising the world to a high plane. Companies like Apple are meant to transcend crashes and recessions and, almost supernaturally, Apple is. Obama's 'cap and trade,' the carbon tax whose mind-blowing cost could finish off old American industry period, plays to Apple's example.

Out with the old polluting ways and in with new slick shiny 'lickable' industries.

GE is/was a metaphor for the American economy, just like GM was in the 50s.
The metaphor seems likely to become Apple.

This is... computer warehouse

A time warp Computer Warehouse design from 1996...

"With a smile like this and prices to match - I honestly can't find a single catch!"

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Packed with features and easy to use, Revo's iBlik RadioStation is truly the ultimate one-box digital radio, and we've got three of them to give away! For more information on this superb music centre and more great Revo products, go to **www.revo.co.uk**.

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Which types of broadcast can the iBlik receive?

A) Internet, DAB and FM
B) Satellite
C) 3G

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The wonderful world of widgets

We've played with the latest widgets… and put the top four on your disc

Ticketmaster Search Widget
This extremely handy widget means you can seek out music concert and event tickets available from Ticketmaster using your Dashboard. It's a quick, easy and massively convenient option when searching for a ticket in a hurry.

CryptBoard
Use this widget to store and protect your complex passwords as well as other sensitive information you don't want others to see. Password-protected itself, the widget uses AES 256 encryption security to ensure your data is completely safe and secure.

iConvert
iConvert will convert more than100 units within 13 categories (ranging from weight to power) for you. There is also a pro-version available of this easy-to-use widget for $4.99. This latter version offers an additional 11 conversion categories.

Twitterfall search widget 1.0
Twitterfall handily enables you to watch and search through the latest 'tweets' of upcoming trends and custom searches on *Twitter*, which fall from the top of the page. The results are then pushed to the widget in real time.

APPLE UPDATE

MobileMe gets the push of improvement

Apple improves MobileMe with almost-instant data syncing

Months since the migration from .Mac to MobileMe, Apple has improved the online service, implementing better push functionality for messages and calendars. *iDisk* sharing has also improved.

iDisk facilitates the sharing of files that are too large to email. MobileMe subscribers can select a file in the *iDisk* web app and click the **Share File** button to generate an email with a download link. The push feature has also been improved, with changes made to contacts and calendars on your Mac or PC now automatically "pushed" up to the cloud each time you update the database. Changes made on me.com, iPhone or iPod touch are also pushed to your Mac or PC.

Apple has tweaked email notification as well as syncing of contacts and calendars, and also claims to have improved the overall performance of the web apps at me.com including faster start time in *Calendar* and searching in **Contacts**.

MobileMe users must ensure all their computers and devices are updated to the latest software versions to see the improvements. ●

Tuesday
9
mobile me
Push email, push calendar, and push contacts.
For your iPhone, iPod touch, Mac, PC, and the web.

MobileMe improvements mean instant updates in the cloud.

EVENTS DIARY

WEB 2.0 EXPO
31 March-3 April
Featuring the leading lights of the industry, O'Reilly Media's annual San Francisco event is key to anyone involved in developing services and applications for internet-capable platforms.

NAB
20-23 April
Another take of the annual event for Mac-using pros in the film and broadcast sectors.

JAVAONE 2009
2-5 June
MySQL, cloud computing and more topics will appear on the agenda this year at JavaOne. If you can't make it, CommunityOne sessions will be streamed online so you don't miss out.

Waiting for something exciting to happen…

Where have all the fun and fresh technological innovations gone?

CHRIS' COLUMN

I write these words on the day-old keyboard of my new MacBook Pro. And just as we said in our review (*MacFormat*, issue 202), it is a beautiful machine. I can't imagine anything that is less unfussy or less aesthetically impure than Apple's latest line of consumer and professional notebooks. The unibody MacBook Pro is, in many ways, the ultimate evolution of the classic notebook design.

But therein lies the problem; regardless of how perfectly realised it is, it's an evolution, a purely iterative design based on a basic layout and interface paradigm that's almost two decades old. Where's the crazy innovation? Where's the radical reimagining of what a personal computer should be, and the revolutionary take on how we should interact with it?

Can previous attempts at thinking creatively be dismissed as gimmicks? I say no. The Microwriter system, for example, is easy to laugh at – five buttons that you pressed in certain 'chord' combinations for letters – but its vocal users claimed that it was faster than a normal keyboard.

> "Where's the radical reimagining of what a personal computer should be, and the revolutionary take on how we should interact with it?"

And then there's the Newton. I came across my MessagePad 110 the other day, fondly remembering how bewitching it seemed when it was launched. Never mind the handwriting recognition – which was great – it was the Assist feature that got me. Scribble 'lunch with Dan on Wednesday', and it would recognise what you'd written and create a diary entry for you. If something did that today we'd be excited.

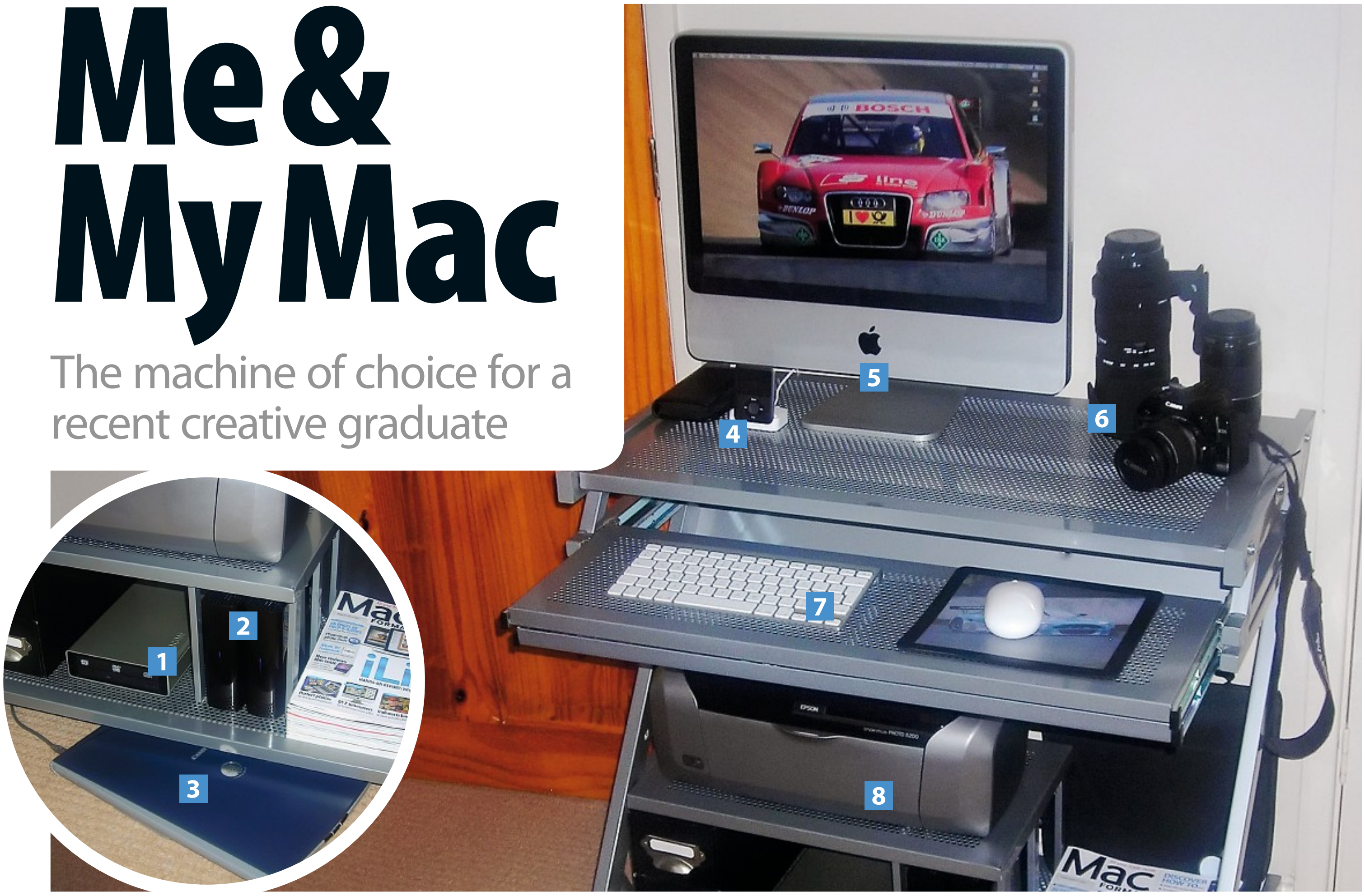
I'm not sure whether this stagnation in development comes from an unwillingness to embrace change, or an inability to work out how to fit new ideas into our commercial reality, but whatever the reason, I would love to see something über-new and insane enough to energise and move personal technology forward by an order of magnitude.

Until then, I guess I'm just going to have to rough it with my lovely, lovely MacBook Pro.

Christopher Phin, *MacFormat*'s Deputy Editor, says size definitely does matter even if it is only a case of 0.13Ghz…

Me & My Mac

The machine of choice for a recent creative graduate



1 Freecom DVD burner It used to be that *iLife* would only play nice with a SuperDrive built into a Mac, but now it's happy with externals.

2 Two Western Digital My Book hard disks WD's new 2TB hard disks mean that Daniel could consolidate some of his storage.

3 Canon scanner We're a little surprised to see a standalone scanner – with MFDs being so cheap – but this is a cracking model nevertheless.

4 Apple iPod nano 8GB Many of us here at *MacFormat* harbour real affection for this little 'fatty' iPod, especially in black.

5 Apple 20-inch iMac 2.4GHz If there's a computer out there that offers a better blend of power, style and affordability, we've never heard of it.

6 Canon EOS 400D and lenses Even though this is an entry-level DLSR, it can take some superb shots, particularly if you add good lenses.

7 Apple Wireless Keyboard If you like this compact design, but prefer a wired keyboard, rejoice; Apple now makes it for you!

8 Epson Stylus Photo R200 Though we've been underwhelmed by the Epson printers we've tested recently, Daniel seems happy with his.

Name:
Daniel Moore
Occupation:
Delivery driver
Been using a Mac for:
Nine years
Favourite hardware:
Apple iPod
Favourite software:
DJ-1800

Here's a familiar story: "I started using Macs when I was at college doing my degree in graphic design," says Daniel Moore. "I was using a PC at home, but finding it so temperamental and very 'crash happy'; when I had saved enough money, I bought an iBook G4. This enabled me to stop using the PC at home, but also allowed me to transfer work between the college Macs and mine with no real compatibility issues." (There's an irony, PC users would say, in buying a Mac to solve compatibility problems!)

"I think that PCs are great," he says, "at least from the point of view of upgradeability and customisability – and in some cases, value for money. They just never seem to run as you want them to, however, and with the constant need to have some form of virus protection on, it only seems to be a matter of time before the PC starts slowing down again. I'm a 100% Mac convert!"

Daniel now has his graphic design degree, so his iMac is mostly used for fun rather than work. "I wasn't too fussed about having the base model – I could upgrade the RAM, but for what I wanted to do it was more than adequate. I do a lot of motorsports photography, so I use *Aperture* a lot for editing photos.

"I used to DJ as well, so I have *DJ-1800* installed, along with *Audio Hijack Pro* and *Fission* so I can record and edit mixes for my iPod. I even go as far as using *Photoshop* and *Illustrator* to design album artwork for it so it doesn't look out of place in *iTunes*! I've recently gotten my own website up and running at **www.dcmoore.co.uk** thanks to *iWeb*, too; there's more than enough there to keep me occupied!"

> "PCs never seem to run as you want them to, and have a constant need for virus protection…"

Ask him what his favourite Apple product is, and he's momentarily stumped. "It's got to be… all of them!" he says. "At the risk of sounding a little obsessed, I love loads of Apple gear, simply because it's so well designed and so well made; even the packaging is impressive. If I really had to pin one down, I'd say the iPod – only because it allowed me to carry as much music as I wanted around in my pocket, and stopped me having tons of CDs lying about in the car!"

Like many creative graduates, Daniel has found it hard to get a job in graphic design, but that doesn't mean his Mac is wasted. "I've just bought my first Apple training book," he tells us, "with the intention of retraining and becoming an Apple Certified Technician. Even though not having a job in graphic design is disappointing, if I hadn't done the course, I wouldn't have ever considered buying a Mac!" ●

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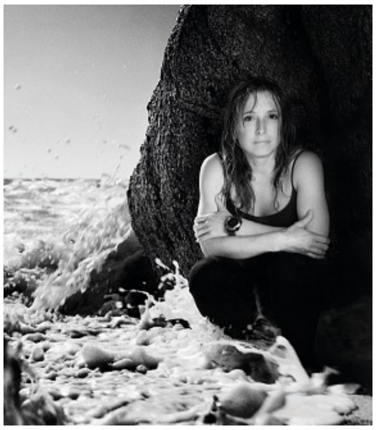

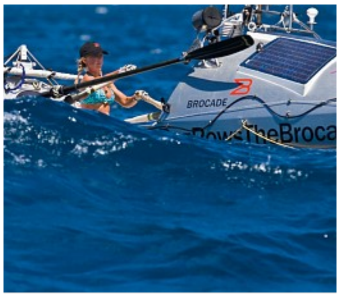

Above: Roz Savage passing Diamond Head just before arriving in Honolulu Hawaii after rowing across the Pacific Ocean from San Francisco.
Right: Roz tests her boat, The Brocade, Thursday, July 5, 2007, in San Francisco Bay in preparation to row across the Pacific Ocean.

Court Mast, Mast Photography, Inc. (www.mastphotography.com)

Interview: **Graham Barlow**

I use my Mac for... rowing around the world!

We meet Roz Savage, adventurer extraordinaire

PROFILE

Name: Roz Savage
Location: All over
Occupation: Eco-adventurer, writer, speaker
System(s): 2GHz MacBook, iPhone 3G
Web: www.rozsavage.com

MacFormat: Why are you rowing around the world?
Roz Savage: I worked in an office for years before deciding there had to be something more interesting to do with my life. I wrote two versions of my own obituary – the one I wanted, and the one I was heading for – and they were very different. So I knew I had to make some big changes to contribute to the greater good, and I wanted to explore my capabilities. Ocean-rowing seemed challenging, yet do-able, and I use it to highlight important environmental issues.

MF: How do Macs and iPods play a part in your journey?
RS: While on the ocean I blog (*Blogger*), podcast (*GarageBand*), videocast (*iMovie*) and Twitter (*Twhirl*) using a Mac. Rowing across oceans takes a lot of preparation – sponsors, logistics, boat repairs, publicity – and I couldn't manage without my MacBook and iPhone. I send and receive hundreds of emails a day.

When I'm on the water, rowing for 10-12 hours a day, listening to audiobooks on my iPods (I have 5!) helps keep me sane. I listened to 62 books between San Francisco and Hawaii, and I have a long reading list lined up for the next stage of my row, which begins in May.

MF: What's been the best part of your adventure so far?
RS: Arriving in Antigua was euphoric. I had found the Atlantic crossing – my first – intensely challenging. I'd suffered multiple equipment failures, including my satellite phone breaking 24 days before the end, severing all communication. It had been an intensely tough experience, but that made the sense of achievement all the greater.

MF: What are you going to do when it's all over?
RS: I really enjoy motivational speaking and I have book ideas too. My first book, *The Unlikely Adventurer*, is being published in October. The ocean has been a tough teacher, but an effective one, and I've picked up some valuable lessons on the water that help me through my land-based challenges – and they seem to resonate with other people too.

MF: What would you like your legacy to be?
RS: My goal is to be happy, healthy and wise, and I'd like to help others achieve the same. I may have lived my life back-to-front, going from a settled life to one of adventure, but I feel lucky to be doing what I do right now, when we have the technology that allows people to share in and be inspired by what I do. ●

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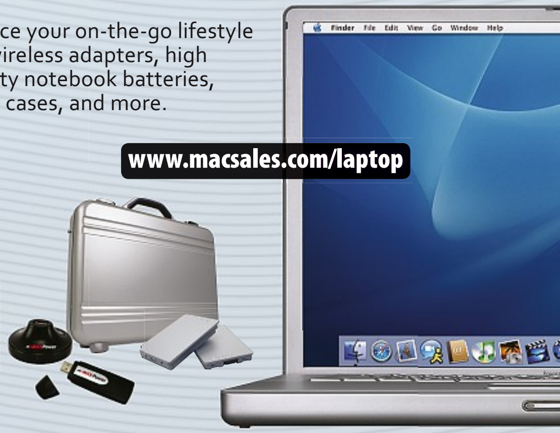

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Letters

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CLIPBOARD

"I read the article '101 OS X timesavers' from the latest issue and I really loved it. There were many excellent tips for me on how to use my Mac more effectively."
Teppo Tommila

"I have been a Mac user now for a year and thought I'd done well in picking up what I needed to know. However, a colleague introduced me to your magazine and I was thoroughly impressed with the new horizons it's opened up. I decided to subscribe and shot off to the web address published on p25 of the April issue to do just that."
Colin Dick

FRUSTRATING UPDATES

I agree with Ann Reeves (*MF* issue 205), the frequency with which Apple releases its product updates exasperates me.

I take your point that, "Apple isn't afraid to keep innovating," but I think that the pace of release of innovation is more market driven than technology driven. Apple relies on the goodwill of its customers to keep on paying for these upgrades but I think that many, such as Ms Reeves and myself, feel that we are being exploited.

At the moment I much prefer the Mac OS to Windows but if ever Microsoft gets its act together and make Windows a better product, I would definitely consider switching.

You may be a little reluctant to publish a letter as frank as this, but you should in the interests of balance.

John Wilson

Apple's AirPort Express enables you to stream music from your Mac to your stereo or any powered speakers in your house.

MacFormat replies: At the end of the day Apple is a business with shareholders to answer to, so yes, almost all of its decisions are market driven, but the market is also a great way of sorting the wheat from the chaff. Bad products don't sell. If people weren't delighted with Apple products they wouldn't be so successful.

APPLE HI-FI

A great new opportunity for Apple would be the hi-fi market. Imagine an iPod touch loaded up with audio files in FLAC or Apple Lossless format, downloadable from iTunes and streaming this over your WiFi network to a D to A converter (either made by Apple, or commercial) or onto your amplifier and speakers in any room in the house.

This could attract a lot of people today who are using systems such as the Sonos. An alternative for the middle market would be to enable Bluetooth streaming from the iPod touch to a small commercially available BT receiver, which could be plugged into your hi-fi system.

Antony Watts

★STAR LETTER | iPHONE KEYBOARD QUERY

I'm currently on the verge of changing over from a BlackBerry to an iPhone – which, if the Berry's syncing software (PocketMac) hadn't refused to cooperate when I upgraded my MacBook and got Leopard, I might not be thinking of doing quite just yet. But, as I now have to update two diaries manually, this is something that I have to do to keep sane. My only quibble with the iPhone has been its narrow touchscreen keypad, which is much harder to use than the BlackBerry's real one. But, then I discovered that if you turn the iPhone sideways, when it's in calculator mode, the keypad flips and you get a much wider, easier-to-use version. Is there an app available so that you can do this when in QWERTY mode?

Graham Marks

MacFormat Replies: There's no way to implement the landscape-mode keyboard on a system-wide basis. There are apps that will, for instance, allow you to type and email in landscape mode and then pass the result to the proper iPhone email app, but not to switch the keyboard globally.

But, the thing is, you don't need to. We recently challenge people here in the office to type faster on a BlackBerry keyboard as opposed to the iPhone's. The iPhone won hands down every time, even against phones with physical keyboards. Trust us, once you get used to using the touch screen keyboard you won't look back. You can type quite happily on it using both thumbs and thanks to the auto-correct feature it's startlingly fast.

BlackBerry
12:21 PM
Wednesday, May 21
(3) Messages
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14:23
SMS
Text
Monday
22
Calendar
Photos
Camera
Maps
Weather
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We'll gladly challenge anybody to an iPhone/Blackberry keyboard duel to prove our point!

The iMac range now starts at £949 – too expensive in these credit-crunched times?

MacFormat Replies: Apple's AirPort Express already enables you to wirelessly stream music from your Mac to your stereo or powered speakers anywhere in the house, but you can't currently stream from an iPod, as you'd like. It's possible to get the same overall effect using the *Remote* App. This free download from Apple's App Store will enable you to remote control *iTunes* on your Mac using an iPod touch or an iPhone. See this month's cover feature for more details.

FEELING LET DOWN BY APPLE

I currently have a first-generation Intel iMac and have been holding out for the next upgrade to the iMacs before replacing it. When the upgrade finally arrived, what did we get? A super, new quad-core processor that's fit for Snow Leopard? A speed bump to keep abreast of the Windows machines? No! Just more RAM and a new video card. It looks as though I will have to put off my upgrade for another year.
Dominic Scott

MacFormat Replies: We're not quite as disappointed with the new desktop range as you are, Dominic. The improved graphics cards and increase in RAM are definitely both a good thing. However, we are feeling a litte bit disappointed that the lower-cost iMac (which was £782) and Mac mini (which was £391) have now bitten the dust, as it has pushed up the starting price of Mac ownership. Have Apple got it right? Please email in to let us know your thoughts.

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May I first congratulate you on an excellent magazine. I have recently returned to a Mac after having endured years in the Windows wilderness. I actually used to use a Mac Classic, which I carted around as a portable, and compared with the PCs available at the time it certainly was portable. What seduced me to the dark side, I have no idea. Since becoming a born-again 'Macian' I have been busy digitising anything I can lay my hands on. To think, I once had a normal social life! The CD collection is now ripped and available on *iTunes* and backed up, next was the photo collection to *iPhoto*. Two projects remain: all my old videos, and tons of archived paper that takes up so much space. The reason for my email is to see if, at some point in the near future, your team could review the best ways of achieving a paperless office for the home or small business office. Browsing the internet there seems to be plenty of solutions but it would be good to have an expert review especially where software is concerned.
Jason Clow

MacFormat Replies: Welcome back to the world of the Mac, Jason, and thanks for the idea for the feature. In the meantime, it's worth investigating the Fuji Snapscan S510A. It's a great little device, if a bit costly. You simply feed documents into it and it coverts them into PDF files.

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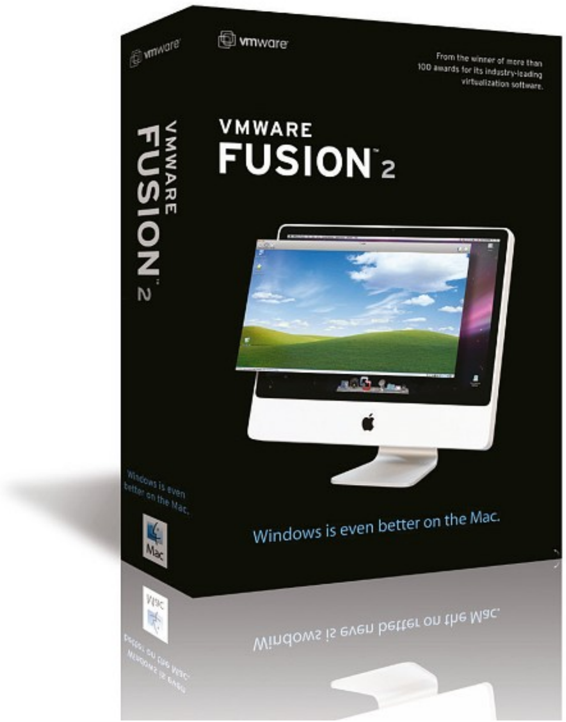
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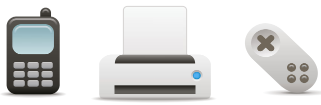

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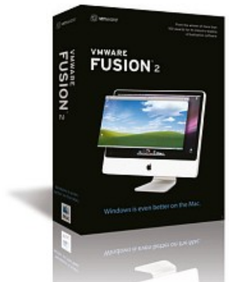

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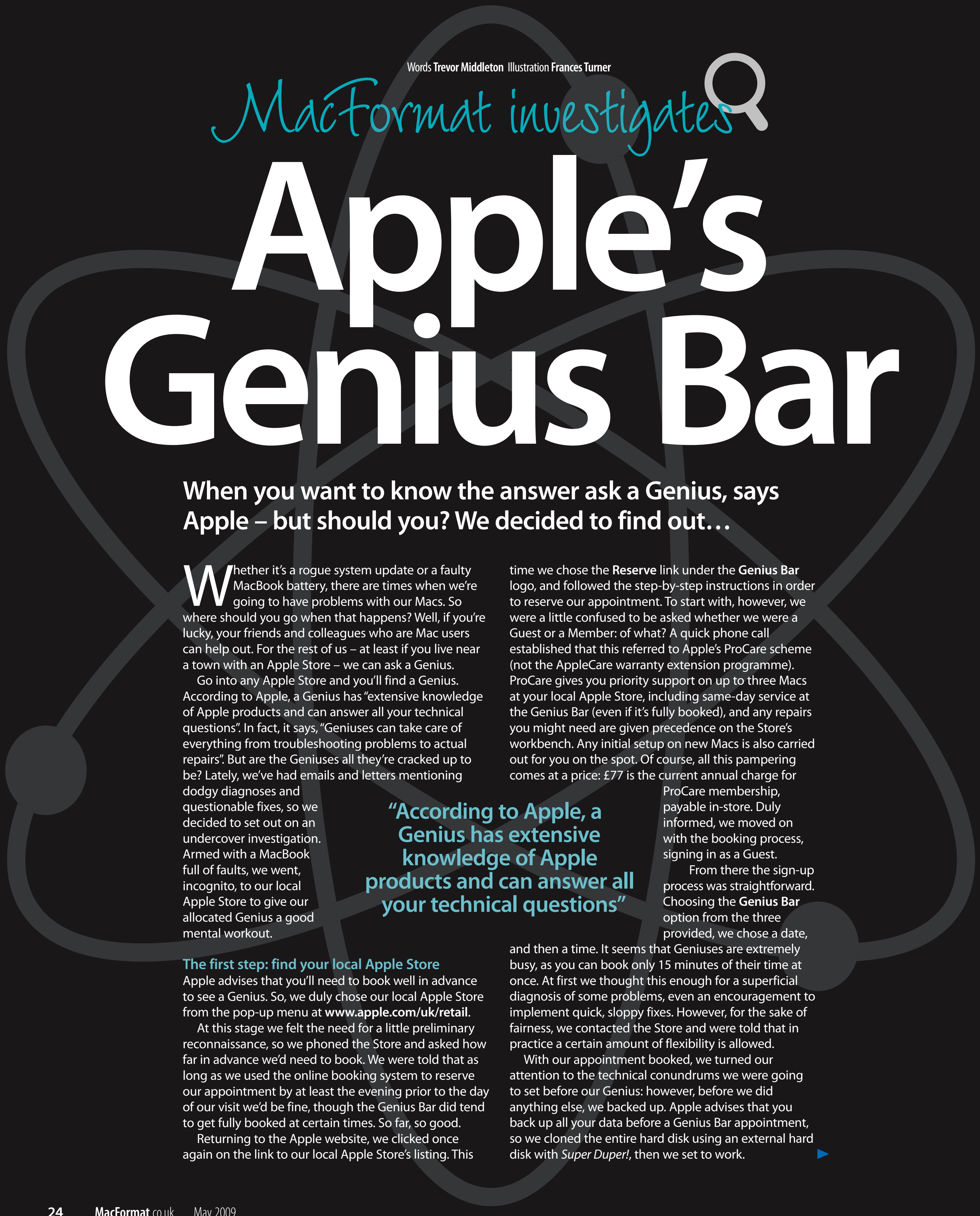


Words **Trevor Middleton** Illustration **Frances Turner**

MacFormat investigates

Apple's Genius Bar

When you want to know the answer ask a Genius, says Apple – but should you? We decided to find out…

Whether it's a rogue system update or a faulty MacBook battery, there are times when we're going to have problems with our Macs. So where should you go when that happens? Well, if you're lucky, your friends and colleagues who are Mac users can help out. For the rest of us – at least if you live near a town with an Apple Store – we can ask a Genius.

Go into any Apple Store and you'll find a Genius. According to Apple, a Genius has "extensive knowledge of Apple products and can answer all your technical questions". In fact, it says, "Geniuses can take care of everything from troubleshooting problems to actual repairs". But are the Geniuses all they're cracked up to be? Lately, we've had emails and letters mentioning dodgy diagnoses and questionable fixes, so we decided to set out on an undercover investigation. Armed with a MacBook full of faults, we went, incognito, to our local Apple Store to give our allocated Genius a good mental workout.

> "According to Apple, a Genius has extensive knowledge of Apple products and can answer all your technical questions"

The first step: find your local Apple Store

Apple advises that you'll need to book well in advance to see a Genius. So, we duly chose our local Apple Store from the pop-up menu at **www.apple.com/uk/retail**.

At this stage we felt the need for a little preliminary reconnaissance, so we phoned the Store and asked how far in advance we'd need to book. We were told that as long as we used the online booking system to reserve our appointment by at least the evening prior to the day of our visit we'd be fine, though the Genius Bar did tend to get fully booked at certain times. So far, so good.

Returning to the Apple website, we clicked once again on the link to our local Apple Store's listing. This time we chose the **Reserve** link under the **Genius Bar** logo, and followed the step-by-step instructions in order to reserve our appointment. To start with, however, we were a little confused to be asked whether we were a Guest or a Member: of what? A quick phone call established that this referred to Apple's ProCare scheme (not the AppleCare warranty extension programme). ProCare gives you priority support on up to three Macs at your local Apple Store, including same-day service at the Genius Bar (even if it's fully booked), and any repairs you might need are given precedence on the Store's workbench. Any initial setup on new Macs is also carried out for you on the spot. Of course, all this pampering comes at a price: £77 is the current annual charge for ProCare membership, payable in-store. Duly informed, we moved on with the booking process, signing in as a Guest.

From there the sign-up process was straightforward. Choosing the **Genius Bar** option from the three provided, we chose a date, and then a time. It seems that Geniuses are extremely busy, as you can book only 15 minutes of their time at once. At first we thought this enough for a superficial diagnosis of some problems, even an encouragement to implement quick, sloppy fixes. However, for the sake of fairness, we contacted the Store and were told that in practice a certain amount of flexibility is allowed.

With our appointment booked, we turned our attention to the technical conundrums we were going to set before our Genius: however, before we did anything else, we backed up. Apple advises that you back up all your data before a Genius Bar appointment, so we cloned the entire hard disk using an external hard disk with *Super Duper!*, then we set to work. ►

GENIUS BAR
GENIUS BAR

How to break a MacBook…

The next stage was deciding which problems our MacBook should have. We'd heard of at least one Genius Bar customer with *iPhoto* problems having entire *iPhoto* libraries deleted from their Mac, with the consequent loss of cherished photos. Now, Apple may have said that it's "not responsible for data loss" on its website (**www.apple.com/uk/retail/geniusbar**) but in the case we'd heard of, the customer concerned had corrupt *iPhoto* libraries, from which the original images were fully recoverable (though not without the help of a technically-qualified person), and the Genius had still trashed them. We therefore decided to attempt something similar on our MacBook: we created a couple of extra *iPhoto* libraries, each with a large number of images, so that it would be clear from their size that there were files to retrieve – and then we broke them.

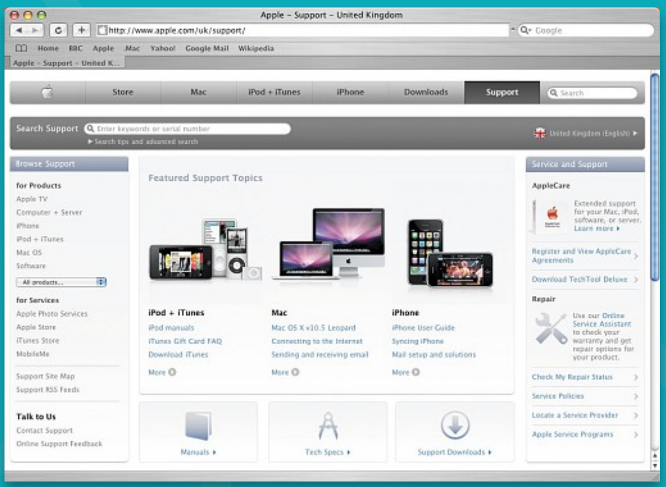
An *iPhoto* library is simply a package (much like an installer PKG file) into which your original image files are placed by *iPhoto*, together with any modified versions, *iPhoto* metadata (metadata is simply information about a file: *iPhoto '09* metadata include **Places**, **Keywords** and **Faces**), and GPS tracking data (for those with compatible cameras and mobile phones). Some of the files in *iPhoto* can easily be recreated by the application if they're deleted; others are vital, and *iPhoto* won't work without them. We therefore opened up each *iPhoto* library – by [Ctrl]-clicking it, and choosing **Show Package Contents** from the contextual menu – then deleted the cataloguing data without which *iPhoto* just shows a blank screen when it's launched.

Next, we decided our MacBook should be producing a cryptic error message with which to test the Genius' knowledge. We duly placed a humongous *iMovie* file on its hard disk. Large files of any kind are a common cause of problems when *Boot Camp Assistant* is run to create a Windows-compatible partition on a Mac's hard disk. In cases like this, you'll often see an error message saying: **The disk cannot be partitioned because some files could not be moved**, often with the recommendation that the disk should be formatted. The fix is actually simple: either remove any large files from the hard disk, or run a third-party defragmentation utility such as *iDefrag* (£20, **www.coriolis-systems.com**), which will tidy up any unwieldy files, making sure that they're compacted into one section of the hard disk, rather than fragmented and spread out over the available space.

We were nearly finished, but we needed one final twist, another task to test our Genius' diagnostic skills. We'd sometimes seen the bewilderment of recent Windows switchers with Spaces enabled on their Macs, when they'd accidentally switched workspaces by hitting the [Ctrl] and arrow keys out of force of habit, in an attempt to skip to the end of the next word in a document. Perfect! We set up a workspace, complete with browser and document windows, and hit [Ctrl]+Right arrow: our workspace disappeared off the screen of our MacBook. We were all set for the moment – or rather 15 minutes – of truth.

Previous impressions

Before we set out, we'd asked others their impressions of Apple Store Geniuses. One recurring theme was their aloofness, a certain air of invulnerability. Certainly, when our Genius was on familiar turf, the verbiage flew thick and fast, which might have confused a non-technical customer (which, we would have thought, was a large proportion of those seeking support). Even their physical position at the Genius Bar we attended – on a raised platform behind the Bar, with the customer seated on a stool at floor-level – is, we would have thought, one calculated to put the customer at a psychological disadvantage. Apple should perhaps learn that putting staff in T-shirts doesn't necessarily convey approachability. As for customers, we'd say that doing a little of your own research (see 'Self-help options' box, above) when you have technical niggles can pay huge dividends – you might even join the ranks of Apple Geniuses! ●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SELF-HELP OPTIONS

For the self-reliant, there's tons of Mac support online, including *MacFormat*'s own forum at **http://forum.macformat.co.uk**.

Google can also help: if you see an error message, make a note of it and enter all or part of it as a search term, enclosing it in quotation marks and leaving out any wording specific to your setup. You should find the cause of your troubles.

Apple itself has an excellent technical support section on its website (**www.apple.com/uk/support**) as well as discussion forums (**http://discussions.apple.com**).

For the technically minded, **www.macfixit.com** and **www.macosxhints.com** are constant sources of help – and their postings are usually lucid enough for even the profoundly non-technical to follow.

Finally, most Mac users are enthusiasts, so simply calling into your local Apple reseller and chatting to the sales assistant will often point you in the right direction.

THE COLOUR OF MONEY

Genius Bars are only available at Apple's own retail outlets. If you don't live or work near an Apple Store, however, you needn't be completely lost. For starters, Apple includes a limited period of complimentary support when you buy a new Mac: 90 days' worth of telephone support, and one year's service support (the statutory minimum in the UK). After these initial periods you have two options, both of which cost: either extend the warranty with an AppleCare Protection Plan (APP), or pay on a per-incident basis.

For instance, if you need telephone support on your Mac after 90 days, expect to pay £35 a time; for an iPod or iPhone this is £25. In the case of servicing, an out-of-warranty repair will typically involve an inspection fee, plus the cost of spares and labour (which can be around £75 an hour).

The alternative to this is to take out AppleCare. Supplied at a varying cost according to the product (for example, £136 for an iMac, £195 for a MacBook, £68 for an Apple display), AppleCare will give you three years' service and telephone support. It can also be transferred to a new owner if you sell your Mac, which is handy if you change your hardware frequently, and gives you a bargaining chip when you are selling.

Any extended warranty is a wager with the customer, with the manufacturer banking on the customer not calling it in. Apple hardware is renowned for its reliability, which may make extra, paid-for protection seem a little excessive. If, however, you're likely to need a lot of telephone support, its asking price begins to make a little more sense.

MacFormat Case File

Case 1: The Disappearing Screen

We arrived at the Store ten minutes early and saw our name on the flat-panel screen behind the bar. After a minute or so, a Genius introduced himself and asked our name. He did a quick check of the schedule (on the inevitable MacBook Air) to confirm that we were next, and we started. We explained that we were recent Windows switchers, and that we'd been lent the MacBook for a few weeks. Assuming an air of bewilderment, we told the Genius how everything but the Desktop had suddenly disappeared from the screen as we were checking directions to the Store before we set off. At this point the interview began to resemble a demented game of charades, as the Genius mimed the possible directions in which the screen might have cleared of its contents, and we responded with our version of events.

After a slight pause, the Genius headed for the *System Preferences* on our MacBook: he seemed to be on to something. He started to explain what Exposé was and showed us its *System Preferences* pane, together with a hurried explanation of how the [F9], [F10] and [F11] keys are used to invoke Exposé for all windows, application windows and the Desktop respectively before the penny dropped. He checked whether Spaces was enabled (it was). He tried the [Ctrl]+Left arrow shortcut, to see if the applications described returned to the Desktop (they did).

Relieved to be on familiar ground, the Genius then gave a full explanation of Spaces, together with a demonstration of how to drag application windows from one Space to another. He left Spaces enabled, and chose to show its icon in the menu bar, so that this novice user wouldn't accidentally invoke it again.

Genius rating:

A good start. We gave our Genius a few clues (Windows users are prone to hitting [Ctrl] instead of ⌘), which he picked up on. The explanations of Spaces and Exposé were spot-on, and the final fix (leaving Spaces enabled, with its menu bar item visible) was good, too.

8/10

Case 3: Cryptic error message

Almost as a parting shot, we mentioned the error message we'd seen while we were using *Boot Camp Assistant*. Might it, we wondered, be connected with the large *iMovie* files on the hard disk? This time, the Genius seemed to flounder. Had we tried *Disk Utility*? Yes, we had. Maybe we should give it another go, he suggested, then reached for the MacBook Air with the appointment list. We'd had our 15 minutes.

Genius rating:

Not very satisfactory at all. Perhaps our Genius wasn't familiar with that error message, he might not even have used Boot Camp Assistant. Either way, not very helpful.

1/10

Case 2: Missing iPhoto Libraries

Now for the big one. We explained that we'd imported several batches of images into *iPhoto* and had created multiple libraries to keep some separate, though all the pictures were important to us. Problem was, something had happened during the upgrade from *iPhoto '08* to *iPhoto '09*, and now we couldn't see any of the libraries: was there any way of getting them back?

The Genius launched *iPhoto*, to be greeted with a blank application window. Then, without explanation, he quit *iPhoto*, then relaunched it whilst holding down the ⌘ and ⌥ keys – the key combination that allows you to rebuild the *iPhoto* libraries. A few more seconds of thought, and he quit *iPhoto* without rebuilding anything. Was he stumped?

No. He went for our **Home** folder, then the **Pictures** folder. He pointed out the three *iPhoto* Libraries, then [Ctrl]-clicked the first one, choosing **Show Package Contents** from the resulting contextual menu. He explained what an *iPhoto* library is, then showed us the various files and folders inside the library he'd opened. It was a little rushed, and we'd say the average Mac newbie would have had difficulty following the explanations, but at least our Genius was rationalising his choices as he went along.

With a flourish (he was obviously on a roll now), he dragged the **Originals** folder from our first *iPhoto* library onto the Desktop and closed the **Library** folder. He then launched *iPhoto*, holding down the ⌥ key as he did so and, when prompted, created a new library. Once he'd dragged the **Originals** folder to the new *iPhoto* library, he showed me that the pictures had been restored, then dragged all three libraries to the Trash. Pardon our ignorance, we said, but wouldn't deleting the other two libraries – the ones from which he'd not recovered the **Originals** folder – mean that the images couldn't be retrieved?

He looked in the Trash, opened up the second *iPhoto* library, dragged the **Originals** folder to the Desktop, closed the Trash folder and told us we were back in business. We wondered about the third *iPhoto* Library, but kept quiet.

Genius rating:

A mixed bag, this one. The diagnostic skills were very much in evidence, but sometimes to the detriment of the customer. We'd explained that we wanted all our pictures back, but our Genius was about to let us have only one batch, before we intervened. Other customers haven't been so lucky.

2/10

> The diagnostic skills were in evidence, but sometimes to the detriment of the customer

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Words **Hollin Jones** iPod photography **Philip Sowels**

Master the world's favourite jukebox and digital music player with our in-depth guide

We find it hard to believe that *iTunes* is now more than eight years old. And although it has grown to incorporate many new features since its creation, it still looks remarkably similar to the way it did when it first appeared, running on OS 9. Back then it was just a jukebox, but over the years came developments like CD burning, the iPod, Smart Playlists, the iTunes Store, video support and, most recently, the iPhone.

Apple has gradually turned *iTunes* into the hub for managing and playing all the music and movies on your Mac and mobile devices, whilst continually adding support for new devices and services like the Apple TV, movie rentals and much more. In 2003, Apple made the smart move of developing a Windows version of *iTunes*, opening up the iPod market and the iTunes Store to a much wider audience, and the results speak for themselves. *iTunes* remains one of Apple's most important applications, and it is capable of far more than just playing music.

Whether it's converting movies to watch on your iPod while out and about, building party playlists, getting album art online, buying music, renting films or backing up iPhones, there's an awful lot under the surface. Most importantly, many of the tips and tricks we're going to show you throughout this feature will save you time, and maybe even reveal a few things you didn't know you could do. So read on to become an *iTunes* and iPod expert.

▶

Mac FORMAT On the disc

Find accompanying software on this issue's disc.

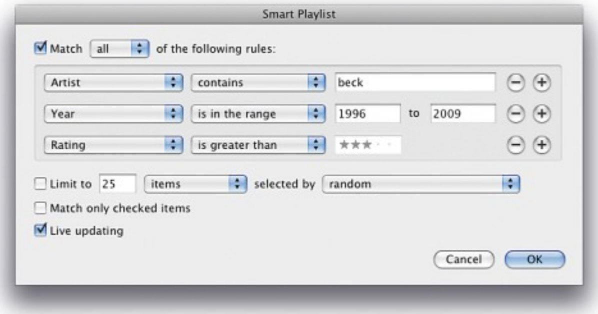
Master your music

Take control of your music collection with our top tips…

Use Smart Playlists to manage music

As music libraries grow they can become unwieldy. Go to File > Smart Playlists and you can create playlists that display tracks meeting any criteria you enter. If you specify that the playlist should show all songs with the **Artist** tag 'Rolling Stones', all tracks in your library by that band will appear in the playlist. You can add further criteria; say, for example, all Rolling Stones tracks you have rated as five stars. By using the **match any rule** option plus other options you can have playlists that display different sets of tracks. For example, a playlist where the genre is blues and also rock, plus bit rate is greater than 128. And, best of all, if you check **Live updating**, the **Smart Playlist** will watch the library and automatically add any new files that meet the criteria you have set up.

By using **Smart Playlists** you can quickly find tracks in even the biggest library.


Smart Playlist

☑ Match all of the following rules:

Artist – contains – beck

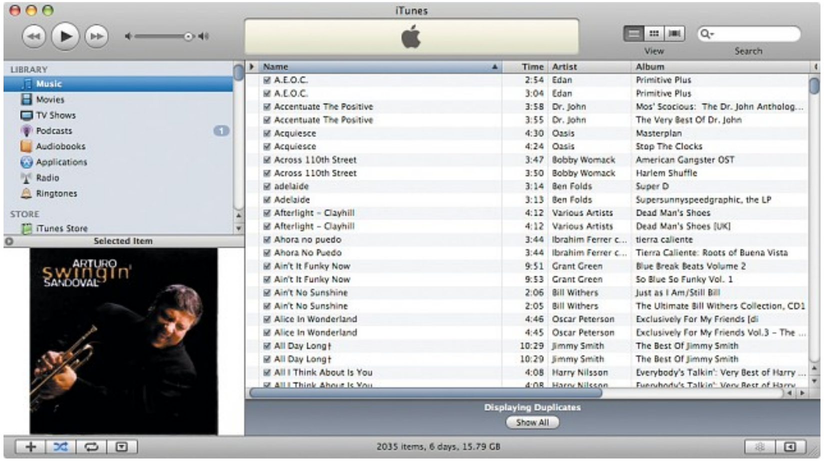
Year – is in the range – 1996 to 2009

Rating – is greater than – ★★★

☐ Limit to 25 items selected by random

☐ Match only checked items

☑ Live updating



Name	Time	Artist	Album
☑ A.E.O.C.	2:54	Edan	Primitive Plus
☑ A.E.O.C.	3:04	Edan	Primitive Plus
☑ Accentuate The Positive	3:58	Dr. John	Mos' Scocious: The Dr. John Antholog…
☑ Accentuate The Positive	3:55	Dr. John	The Very Best Of Dr. John
☑ Acquiesce	4:30	Oasis	Masterplan
☑ Acquiesce	4:24	Oasis	Stop The Clocks
☑ Across 110th Street	3:47	Bobby Womack	American Gangster OST
☑ Across 110th Street	3:50	Bobby Womack	Harlem Shuffle
☑ adelaide	3:14	Ben Folds	Super D
☑ Adelaide	3:13	Ben Folds	Supersunnyspeedgraphic, the LP
☑ Afterlight – Clayhill	4:12	Various Artists	Dead Man's Shoes
☑ Afterlight – Clayhill	4:12	Various Artists	Dead Man's Shoes [UK]
☑ Ahora no puedo	3:44	Ibrahim Ferrer c…	tierra caliente
☑ Ahora No Puedo	3:44	Ibrahim Ferrer c…	Tierra Caliente: Roots of Buena Vista
☑ Ain't It Funky Now	9:51	Grant Green	Blue Break Beats Volume 2
☑ Ain't It Funky Now	9:53	Grant Green	So Blue So Funky Vol. 1
☑ Ain't No Sunshine	2:06	Bill Withers	Just as I Am/Still Bill
☑ Ain't No Sunshine	2:05	Bill Withers	The Ultimate Bill Withers Collection, CD1
☑ Alice In Wonderland	4:46	Oscar Peterson	Exclusively For My Friends [di
☑ Alice In Wonderland	4:45	Oscar Peterson	Exclusively For My Friends Vol.3 – The …
☑ All Day Long†	10:29	Jimmy Smith	The Best Of Jimmy Smith
☑ All Day Long†	10:29	Jimmy Smith	The Best Of Jimmy Smith
☑ All I Think About Is You	4:08	Harry Nilsson	Everybody's Talkin': Very Best of Harry …

2035 items, 6 days, 15.79 GB

Use the **Show Duplicates** command to reveal duplicate tracks, but beware tracks of the same name that are on different albums.

Clean up the clutter & save space

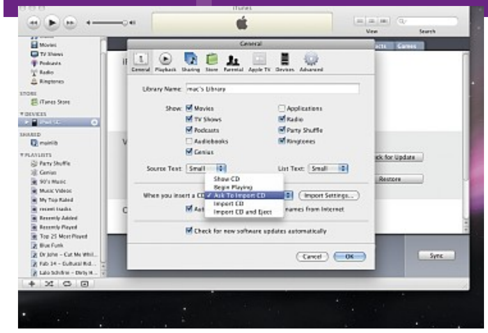
Some people's *iTunes* libraries get very full with duplicate tracks. You need to know whether you're accidentally copying tracks as you drag them into *iTunes*. Go to Preferences > Advanced and see if **Copy files to iTunes music folder…** is switched on. If it is, it could be that when you're dragging files into *iTunes* they are being duplicated and so exist in two places on your hard drive.

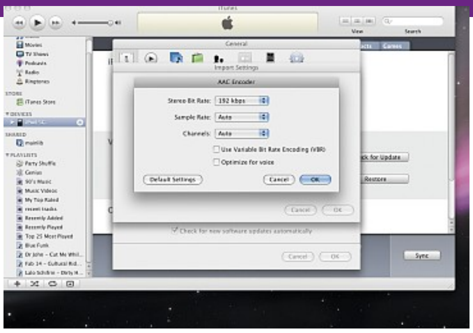
Select the **Music** library in *iTunes* and then choose File > Show Duplicates. Sort the list by clicking on the **Name** tab and duplicate files will be shown side by side.

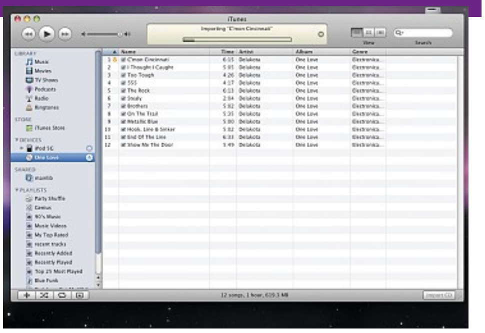
Be aware that *iTunes* uses a song's name in this process, so if a song has been imported on two different compilation CDs, for example, it would then show up as a duplicate track.

Before you delete any tracks from your **Music** library, play them to check if they are actually the same tune. To find a track's location, use the ⌘+[I] **Get Info** trick, or right-click on a file and choose **Show in Finder**. You can also use the File > Library > Consolidate command to copy any music that's referenced outside of the *iTunes* **Music** folder into it.

STEP BY STEP Automatically rip and import CDs in iTunes





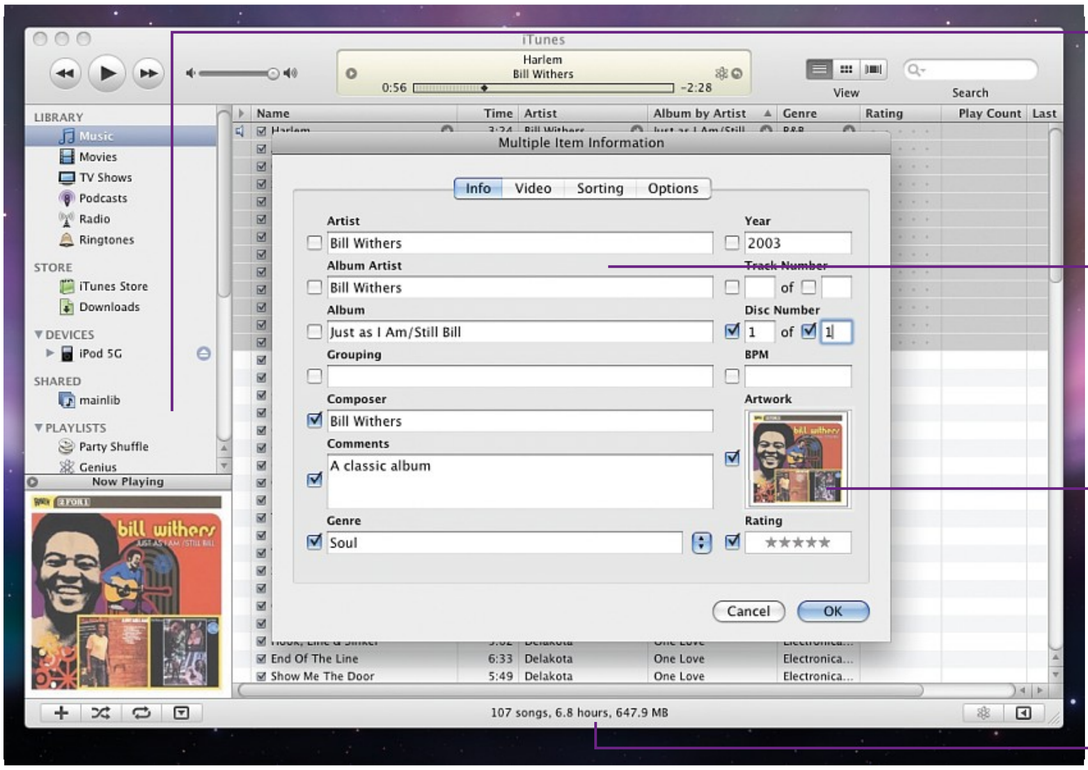


01 Go into iTunes > Preferences > General and select **When you Insert a CD, Import CD and Eject**. This will mean that as long as this setting is active, whenever you insert an audio CD it will have track names fetched from the internet, be immediately encoded based on the import settings, and the disc ejected.

02 Click the **Import Settings** tab and choose the quality that you want *iTunes* to convert the CD tracks to as it imports them. 192kbps AAC or MP3 files or higher will offer good sound quality at reasonable file sizes. Leave the other options set as shown in the screengrab above for the best audio quality.

03 When you insert an audio CD, *iTunes* will now retrieve all track names and artwork from the internet and import the tracks using the quality settings you made. To turn off this automatic importing, return to the **Preferences** and choose another action such as **Show CD** or **Begin Playing CD**. ●

QUICK TIPS | Save time in iTunes


iTunes
Harlem
Bill Withers
0:56
-2:28
View
Search
LIBRARY
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Podcasts
Radio
Ringtones
STORE
iTunes Store
Downloads
DEVICES
iPod 5G
SHARED
mainlib
PLAYLISTS
Party Shuffle
Genius
Now Playing
Name
Time
Artist
Album by Artist
Genre
Rating
Play Count
Last
Multiple Item Information
Info
Video
Sorting
Options
Cancel
OK

Artist: ☐ Bill Withers
Year: ☐ 2003
Album Artist: ☐ Bill Withers
Track Number: ☐ of ☐
Album: ☐ Just as I Am/Still Bill
Disc Number: ☑ 1 of ☑ 1
Grouping: ☐
BPM: ☐
Composer: ☑ Bill Withers
Artwork: ☑
Comments: ☑ A classic album
Genre: ☑ Soul
Rating: ☑ ★★★★★

End Of The Line 6:33 Delakota One Love Electronica...
Show Me The Door 5:49 Delakota One Love Electronica...

107 songs, 6.8 hours, 647.9 MB

Sharing and devices
Connected devices like iPods and iPhones appear here. If *iTunes* is set to look for shared music libraries and any are available, access them here.

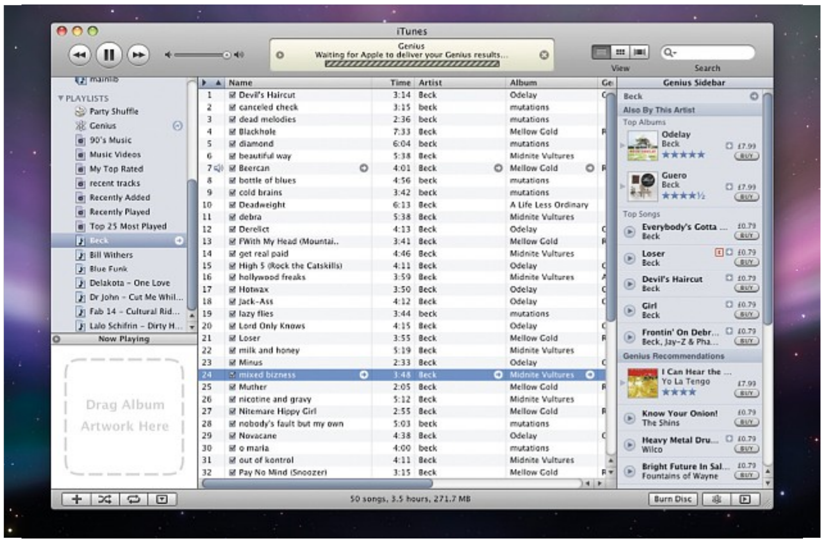
Multiple item info
Adding tags to multiple tracks all in one go saves time. Select the tracks and hit ⌘+[I] to bring up this handy window for changing multiple items.

Adding artwork
Artwork can be dragged here to embed it into music files. It will then show up if desired during playback in *iTunes* or on your iPod or iPhone.

Track sizes and counts
At the bottom of every playlist you will see an indication of the physical size of the tracks contained in it, plus their number and total duration.

Use the Genius tool to find new music

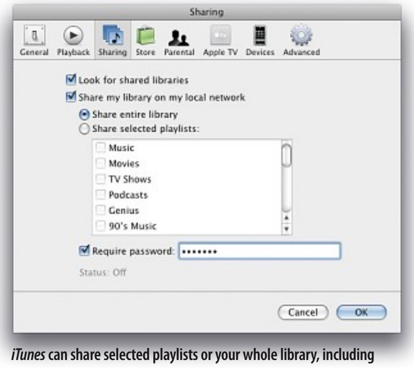
With more music than ever available to buy online through the iTunes Store, it can be hard navigating through it to find new stuff that you might like. The **Genius** feature in *iTunes* sends information about your listening habits to the iTunes Store and recommends new music based on similar artists and other people's listening habits. If you select a track from your library and click the **Genius** button, *iTunes* will create a **Genius** playlist for you of other songs from your library that complement your chosen track. If you're after something new, the **Genius Sidebar** will display songs that it thinks go well with the track you're playing, and you can preview and buy these songs directly from the sidebar. Since it knows what music is already in your library, **Genius** won't recommend anything you already have. It's a much better way to find new music than clicking through the iTunes Store at random.


iTunes
Genius
Waiting for Apple to deliver your Genius results...
View
Search
PLAYLISTS
Party Shuffle
Genius
90's Music
Music Videos
My Top Rated
recent tracks
Recently Added
Recently Played
Top 25 Most Played
Beck
Bill Withers
Blue Funk
Delakota – One Love
Now Playing
Drag Album Artwork Here
Genius Sidebar
Beck
Also By This Artist
Top Albums
Odelay
Guero
Top Songs
Everybody's Gotta ...
Loser
Devil's Haircut
Girl
Frontin' On Debr...
Genius Recommendations
I Can Hear the ...
Know Your Onion!
Heavy Metal Dru...
Bright Future In Sal...
BUY
Burn Disc

	Name	Time	Artist	Album
1	☑ Devil's Haircut	3:14	Beck	Odelay
2	☑ canceled check	3:15	beck	mutations
3	☑ dead melodies	2:36	beck	mutations
4	☑ Blackhole	7:33	Beck	Mellow Gold
5	☑ diamond	6:04	beck	mutations
6	☑ beautiful way	5:38	Beck	Midnite Vultures
7	☑ Beercan	4:01	Beck	Mellow Gold
8	☑ bottle of blues	4:56	beck	mutations
9	☑ cold brains	3:42	beck	mutations
10	☑ Deadweight	6:13	Beck	A Life Less Ordinary
11	☑ debra	5:38	Beck	Midnite Vultures
12	☑ Derelict	4:13	Beck	Odelay
13	☑ FWith My Head (Mountai..	3:41	Beck	Mellow Gold
14	☑ get real paid	4:46	Beck	Midnite Vultures
15	☑ High 5 (Rock the Catskills)	4:11	Beck	Odelay
16	☑ hollywood freaks	3:59	Beck	Midnite Vultures
17	☑ Hotwax	3:50	Beck	Odelay
18	☑ Jack-Ass	4:12	Beck	Odelay
19	☑ lazy flies	3:44	beck	mutations
20	☑ Lord Only Knows	4:15	Beck	Odelay
21	☑ Loser	3:55	Beck	Mellow Gold
22	☑ milk and honey	5:19	Beck	Midnite Vultures
23	☑ Minus	2:33	Beck	Odelay
24	☑ mixed bizness	3:48	Beck	Midnite Vultures
25	☑ Muther	2:05	Beck	Mellow Gold
26	☑ nicotine and gravy	5:12	Beck	Midnite Vultures
27	☑ Nitemare Hippy Girl	2:55	Beck	Mellow Gold
28	☑ nobody's fault but my own	5:03	beck	mutations
29	☑ Novacane	4:38	Beck	Odelay
30	☑ o maria	4:00	beck	mutations
31	☑ out of kontrol	4:11	Beck	Midnite Vultures
32	☑ Pay No Mind (Snoozer)	3:15	Beck	Mellow Gold

50 songs, 3.5 hours, 271.7 MB

By activating the **Genius** feature you can have *iTunes* recommend new music based on your existing listening habits.


Sharing
General
Playback
Sharing
Store
Parental
Apple TV
Devices
Advanced
Cancel
OK

☑ Look for shared libraries
☑ Share my library on my local network
● Share entire library
○ Share selected playlists:
☐ Music
☐ Movies
☐ TV Shows
☐ Podcasts
☐ Genius
☐ 90's Music
☑ Require password: •••••••
Status: Off

iTunes can share selected playlists or your whole library, including videos, over a local network, with optional password protection.

Share your iTunes library

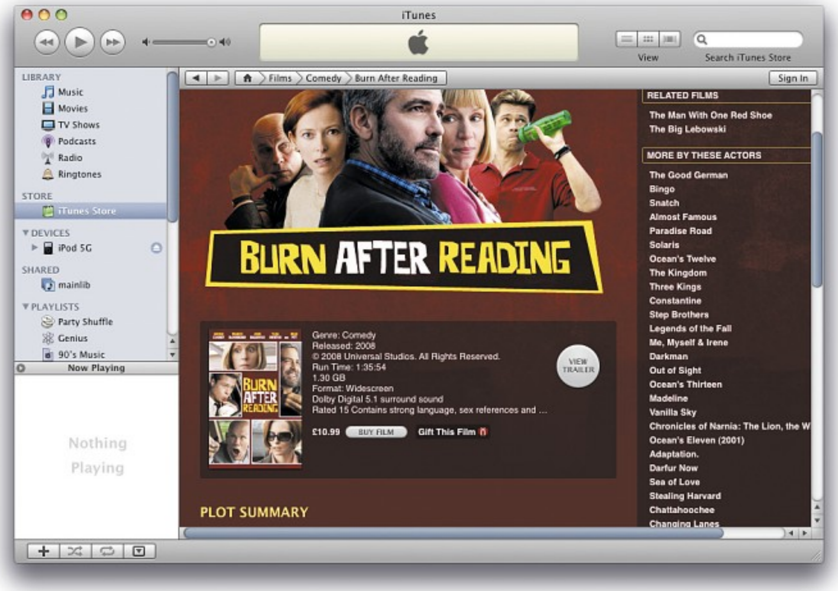
You can duplicate an entire consolidated *iTunes* library by simply copying the **Music** folder. But with libraries frequently running into many gigabytes, it's slow and inefficient. *iTunes* can share your library over a local network, so it can be accessed by anyone on your Ethernet or wireless network. Go to Preferences > Sharing and you can turn on sharing of the whole library or specific playlists. You can password-protect access, and also tell your *iTunes* to look for other shared libraries. Since the music is streamed and not copied, it takes up no disk space on the listening machines. It's great for use in the home or an office environment.

Working with video

iTunes is just as good with video as it is with music

Buy or rent movies online

The iTunes Store contains many movies as well as TV series, and recently the quality has been improved so that video looks better both on computer monitors and on televisions through the Apple TV. In the iTunes Store you'll find **Film** and **TV** sections and just like with music, you can get a free preview (in this case a trailer) of the content. If you choose to buy or rent a film or TV show it will download to your Mac and will then be available to transfer to your Apple TV, iPod or iPhone after conversion. Content is increasingly available in HD and you can "gift" videos to people as long as they're in the same country. Purchased videos remain playable, whereas rented ones have to be watched within a certain number of days. Still, it's easier than going to the video shop.

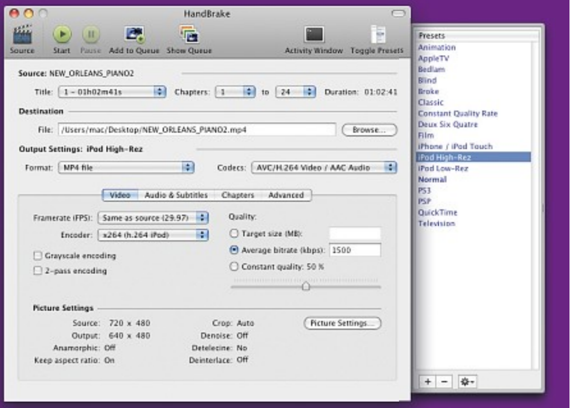

iTunes
View
Search iTunes Store
LIBRARY
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Podcasts
Radio
Ringtones
STORE
iTunes Store
DEVICES
iPod 5G
SHARED
mainlib
PLAYLISTS
Party Shuffle
Genius
90's Music
Now Playing
Nothing Playing
Films
Comedy
Burn After Reading
Sign In
BURN AFTER READING
VIEW TRAILER
BUY FILM
Gift This Film
PLOT SUMMARY
RELATED FILMS
The Man With One Red Shoe
The Big Lebowski
MORE BY THESE ACTORS
The Good German
Bingo
Snatch
Almost Famous
Paradise Road
Solaris
Ocean's Twelve
The Kingdom
Three Kings
Constantine
Step Brothers
Legends of the Fall
Me, Myself & Irene
Darkman
Out of Sight
Ocean's Thirteen
Madeline
Vanilla Sky
Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the W
Ocean's Eleven (2001)
Adaptation.
Darfur Now
Sea of Love
Stealing Harvard
Chattahoochee
Changing Lanes

Genre: Comedy
Released: 2008
© 2008 Universal Studios. All Rights Reserved.
Run Time: 1:35:54
1.30 GB
Format: Widescreen
Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound
Rated 15 Contains strong language, sex references and ...
£10.99

VIDEO CONVERTERS

iTunes, iPods and iPhones are capable of video playback. If you want to watch a movie from DVD on your portable device you'll need to copy and convert it (please note that it's not legal to do this with commerical DVDs to which you don't own the copyright). _HandBrake_ (http://handbrake.fr) has extensive options for ripping a DVD straight to an iPod-compatible MP4 file, as well as some quick presets if you don't fancy digging around in the settings.

MactheRipper (www.mactheripper.org) can copy a DVD to your hard drive but not convert it – it makes large, lossless copies of the contents. If your movie file is not compatible with _iTunes_, like AVI, VIDEO_TS folder or WMV, you can use a program like _ViddyUp_ (on the disc) to convert it. The free _ffmpeg_ (on the disc) can deal with most formats and now has helpful presets for quick conversion, as well as letting you make precise picture and sound settings.

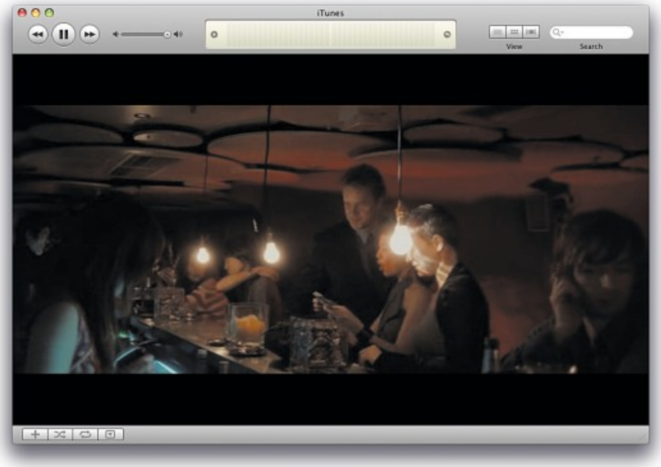

HandBrake
Source
Start
Pause
Add to Queue
Show Queue
Activity Window
Toggle Presets
Browse...
Video
Audio & Subtitles
Chapters
Advanced
Picture Settings...
Presets
Animation
AppleTV
Bedlam
Blind
Broke
Classic
Constant Quality Rate
Deux Six Quatre
Film
iPhone / iPod Touch
iPod High-Rez
iPod Low-Rez
Normal
PS3
PSP
QuickTime
Television

Source: NEW_ORLEANS_PIANO2
Title: 1 – 01h02m41s Chapters: 1 to 24 Duration: 01:02:41
Destination
File: /Users/mac/Desktop/NEW_ORLEANS_PIANO2.mp4
Output Settings: iPod High-Rez
Format: MP4 file Codecs: AVC/H.264 Video / AAC Audio
Framerate (FPS): Same as source (29.97)
Encoder: x264 (h.264 iPod)
☐ Grayscale encoding
☐ 2-pass encoding
Quality:
○ Target size (MB):
● Average bitrate (kbps): 1500
○ Constant quality: 50 %
Picture Settings
Source: 720 x 480 Crop: Auto
Output: 640 x 480 Denoise: Off
Anamorphic: Off Detelecine: No
Keep aspect ratio: On Deinterlace: Off

HandBrake can help you to make iPod-ready copies of DVDs and also convert video formats.

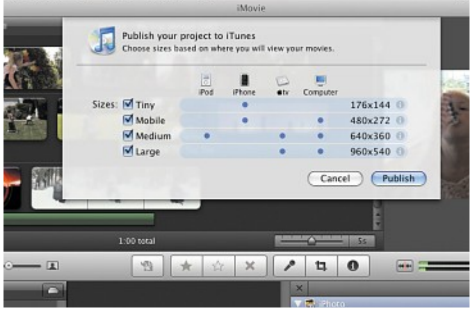
Manage playback settings for a better viewing experience

iTunes can display videos from its library in many ways. If you go to Preferences > Playback, you can tell it to play back videos in the small artwork viewer, in *iTunes'* main window, in a separate window, or full screen. You can have anything from a small, unobtrusive window that lets you continue web browsing, to a full theatre presentation, blanking out additional monitors. When it's in a floating window, video can be resized during playback, and if you right-click you can select any preset size for playback. If you have more than one screen, move the floating window onto the monitor you want to use; *iTunes* will make that the main screen. This is handy if you have a digital TV connected as a second screen.

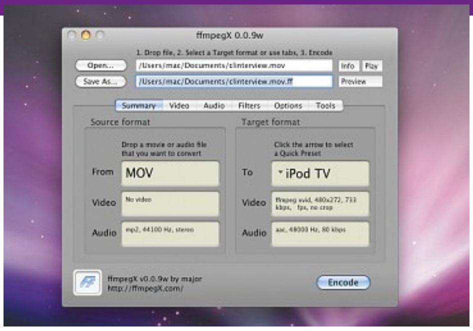

iTunes
View
Search

iTunes can play back video in a number of ways depending if you want it small and unobtrusive, or a full-screen presentation.

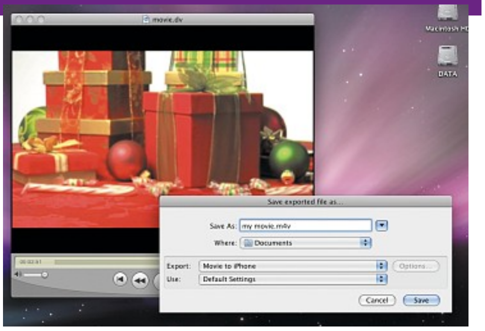
STEP BY STEP Export your own movies to your iPod or iPhone


Edit View Text Share Window Help
iMovie
Publish your project to iTunes
Choose sizes based on where you will view your movies.
iPod iPhone tv Computer
Sizes: ☑ Tiny 176x144
☑ Mobile 480x272
☑ Medium 640x360
☑ Large 960x540
Cancel Publish
1:00 total

01 Anyone using *iMovie '08* or *'09* has the advantage of being able to export a project directly into *iTunes* using the **Share** menu. Or, choose **Media Browser** and check the iPhone and iPod options. For each option you check, a different version will be compressed and exported.


ffmpegX 0.0.9w
1. Drop file, 2. Select a Target format or use tabs, 3. Encode
Open... /Users/mac/Documents/clinterview.mov Info Play
Save As... /Users/mac/Documents/clinterview.mov.ff Preview
Summary Video Audio Filters Options Tools
Source format Target format
From MOV To iPod TV
Video No video
Audio
ffmpegX v0.0.9w by major
http://ffmpegX.com/
Encode

02 If you're still on *iMovie 6 HD* or your movie has come from another source such as straight from a camera, you can use a third-party compression tool like *ffmpeg* (on the disc, or at **http://homepage.mac.com/major4/**) to convert most kinds of video files. It has handy presets for the iPod so you don't need to be a technical wizard.


movie.dv
Save exported file as...
Save As: my movie.m4v
Where: Documents
Export: Movie to iPhone
Use: Default Settings
Options...
Cancel Save

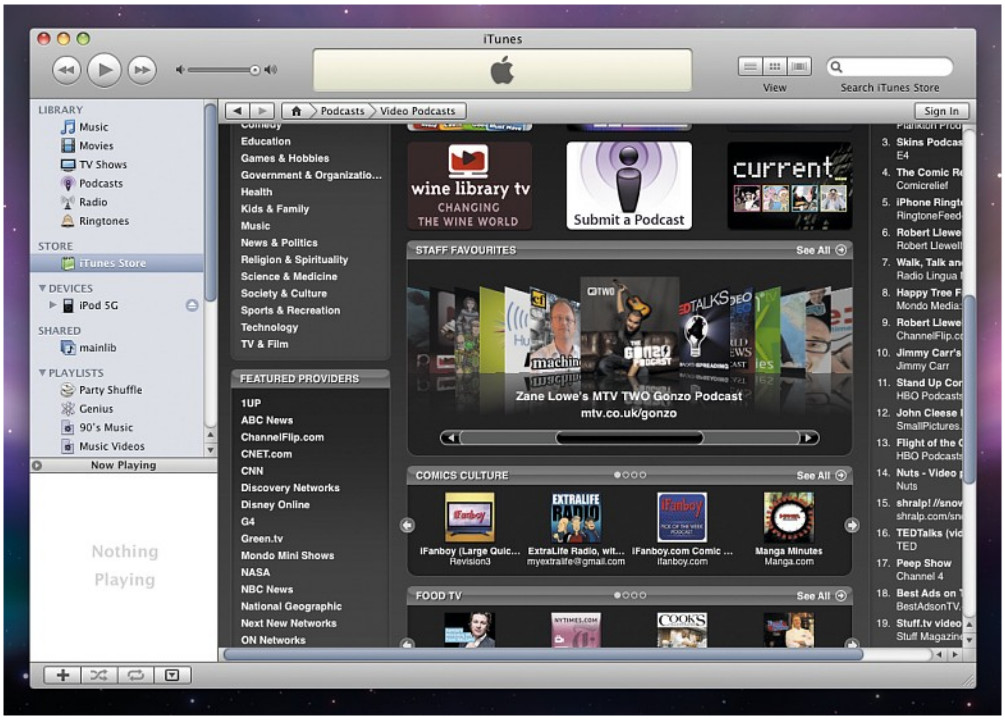
03 If you have *QuickTime Pro* and *Perian* installed to cope with different codecs (*Perian* is on the disc), you can choose to export directly for iPhone, iPod or Apple TV. This takes care of it using optimised settings. These features are expected to be part of the standard *QuickTime* software in future versions of OS X. ●

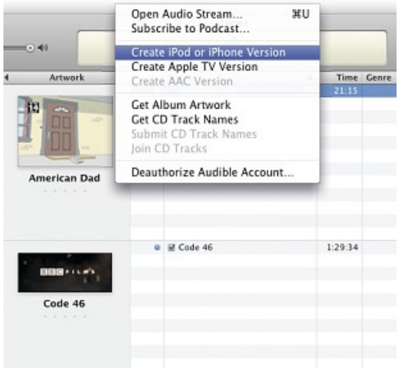
Get video podcasts for a better podcast experience

Not long after regular podcasting had taken off, the improving technology and broadband speeds made video podcasts possible. Now there are plenty of great video podcasts available on the iTunes Store. If you go to the iTunes Store and head for the Podcasts > Video Podcasts section you'll see lots of them available to download for free, on every subject from technology to comedy and special interests.

Once downloaded these appear in the **Podcasts** section of your iTunes library and can be watched in iTunes or transferred to any of your video-capable iPods. By subscribing to video podcasts – just as you do with regular podcasts – you can automatically get new episodes as they become available. In the **Settings** menu you can manage how often *iTunes* will check online for new content, and how regularly (if at all) it deletes all episodes that have been played. Video uses more disk space than audio, so setting it up to clear out old content automatically can be a good idea.

There are hundreds of free video podcasts available via *iTunes*.


iTunes
View
Search iTunes Store
LIBRARY
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Podcasts
Radio
Ringtones
STORE
iTunes Store
DEVICES
iPod 5G
SHARED
mainlib
PLAYLISTS
Party Shuffle
Genius
90's Music
Music Videos
Now Playing
Nothing Playing
Podcasts > Video Podcasts
Sign In
Education
Games & Hobbies
Government & Organizatio...
Health
Kids & Family
Music
News & Politics
Religion & Spirituality
Science & Medicine
Society & Culture
Sports & Recreation
Technology
TV & Film
FEATURED PROVIDERS
1UP
ABC News
ChannelFlip.com
CNET.com
CNN
Discovery Networks
Disney Online
G4
Green.tv
Mondo Mini Shows
NASA
NBC News
National Geographic
Next New Networks
ON Networks
wine library tv
CHANGING THE WINE WORLD
Submit a Podcast
current
STAFF FAVOURITES
See All
Zane Lowe's MTV TWO Gonzo Podcast
mtv.co.uk/gonzo
COMICS CULTURE
iFanboy (Large Quic... Revision3
ExtraLife Radio, wit... myextralife@gmail.com
iFanboy.com Comic ... ifanboy.com
Manga Minutes Manga.com
FOOD TV


Open Audio Stream... ⌘U
Subscribe to Podcast...
Create iPod or iPhone Version
Create Apple TV Version
Create AAC Version
Get Album Artwork
Get CD Track Names
Submit CD Track Names
Join CD Tracks
Deauthorize Audible Account...
Artwork
Time Genre
American Dad
Code 46
1:29:34

iTunes can convert MP4 or M4V video files into new versions especially formatted for the Apple TV, iPod or iPhone.

Convert video for use with iTunes & iPods

iTunes is quite restrictive when it comes to video formats, and even if you have lots of codecs installed on your Mac it still doesn't like AVIs, WMVs or other non-Apple formats. If you have a movie that's already been digitised into one of these incompatible formats, the best course of action is to convert it with *QuickTime Pro* into an MP4 or M4V file using the File > Export > MP4 or Apple TV options. You will need to install *Perian* (on the disc, or from **www.perian.org**) to enable *QuickTime* to open the videos in the first place. You should be able to drag the converted movies into your *iTunes* library, holding the ⌥ key if necessary to override automatic copying of the file. Then, you can choose Advanced > Create iPhone, iPod or Apple TV version and *iTunes* will convert the video using the optimum quality and screen-size settings for the device that you will be viewing the video on.

Sync your iPhone/iPod

Better ways to manage music, video and applications

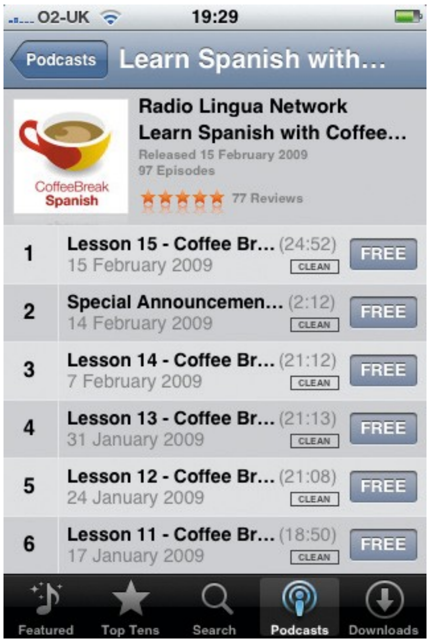
Make and sync ringtones

iTunes supports ringtones, but there are restrictions. You're only allowed to create ringtones from tracks bought from the iTunes Store. And it doesn't seem to work very well outside of the US. In fact, in many cases it just seems to give an error with no explanation. One way round this is to use the *MakeiPhoneRingtone* application on the disc. Choose a music file, convert it to AAC format in *iTunes* (Advanced > Create AAC Version) and drag it to the Desktop. Drop it onto *MakeiPhoneRingtone* and it is converted and placed into *iTunes*' **Ringtones** playlist. For a more flexible approach – including working with multiple file types and the ability to edit and trim songs, then save directly out as a ringtone – look at *Fission*, also on the disc.

MakeiPhoneRingtone
Drop AAC Files Here

Download podcasts from your iPhone while on the move

Whilst you can download video and audio podcasts into *iTunes* and then sync them to your iPod, anyone running the version 2.2 software or higher on an iPhone or iPod touch also has the option to download podcasts on the device. You don't even need to be on a WiFi network or have 3G, as it also works over an EDGE connection, though it will be slower. There is a limit of 10MB on podcasts that can be downloaded on anything except a WiFi network. In the mobile iTunes Store > Podcasts tab you can navigate or search by category and download as many audio and video podcasts as your device will hold, which is quite a lot. Once downloaded these appear in your **Podcasts** playlist in the **iPod** section, along with a link to get more episodes in the series. Once you've finished listening, quickly slide your finger left to right across the podcast in the **Podcast** list and you'll see a **Delete** button. Press it and next time you connect to your Mac, the podcast will be deleted.


O2-UK
19:29
Podcasts
Learn Spanish with...
CoffeeBreak Spanish
Featured
Top Tens
Search
Podcasts
Downloads

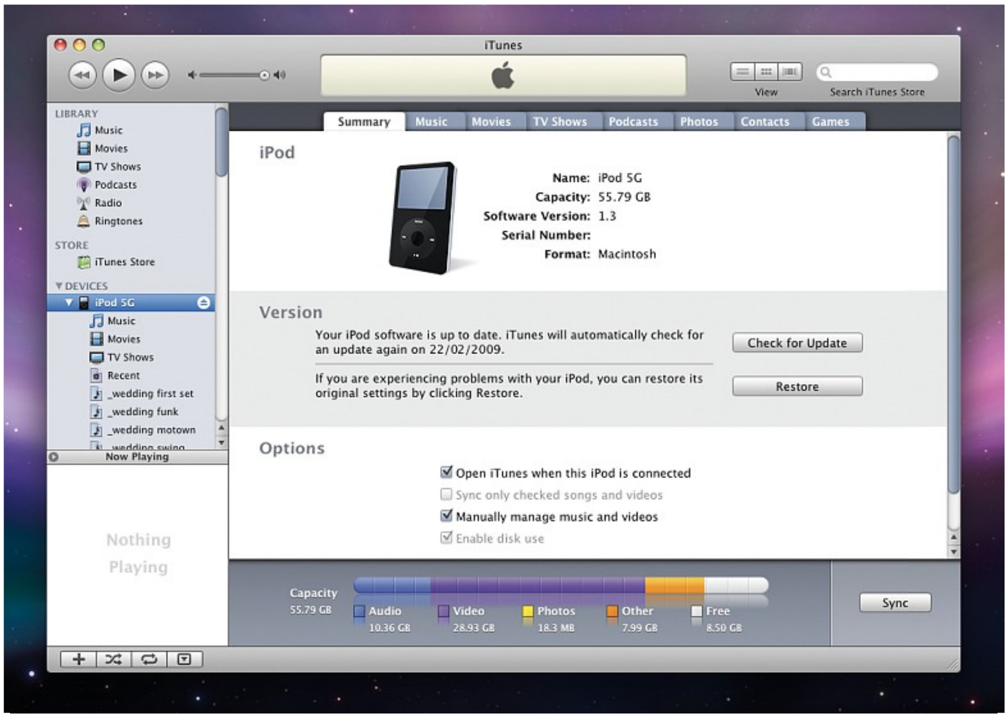
Radio Lingua Network
Learn Spanish with Coffee...
Released 15 February 2009
97 Episodes
★★★★★ 77 Reviews

1 Lesson 15 - Coffee Br... (24:52) 15 February 2009 CLEAN FREE
2 Special Announcemen... (2:12) 14 February 2009 CLEAN FREE
3 Lesson 14 - Coffee Br... (21:12) 7 February 2009 CLEAN FREE
4 Lesson 13 - Coffee Br... (21:13) 31 January 2009 CLEAN FREE
5 Lesson 12 - Coffee Br... (21:08) 24 January 2009 CLEAN FREE
6 Lesson 11 - Coffee Br... (18:50) 17 January 2009 CLEAN FREE

Automatic syncing to save time and space

iPods and *iTunes* have always had the ability to automatically sync with each other – sharing exactly the same music files. For some people this is great, as it maintains an exact copy of your music, photos and contacts on your iPod or iPhone and on your Mac. Others, though, prefer more flexibility. For example, you may have lots of music on your Mac but not enough room to fit it all on your 4GB iPod nano. With your iPod selected, go to its **Summary** tab and click **Manually Manage Music and Videos**. Then you can add or delete tracks from the iPod's music library by hand. Just drag and drop tracks from your iTunes library to add them.

In each subsequent tab you can choose to manually sync contacts, calendars, ringtones, videos, applications and more. This is a great way of syncing some data but not performing a full sync, which can be slow and puts you at risk of overwriting data accidentally.


iTunes
View
Search iTunes Store
LIBRARY
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Podcasts
Radio
Ringtones
STORE
iTunes Store
DEVICES
iPod 5G
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Recent
_wedding first set
_wedding funk
_wedding motown
_wedding swing
Now Playing
Nothing Playing
Summary
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Podcasts
Photos
Contacts
Games
Check for Update
Restore
Sync

iPod

Name: iPod 5G
Capacity: 55.79 GB
Software Version: 1.3
Serial Number:
Format: Macintosh

Version

Your iPod software is up to date. iTunes will automatically check for an update again on 22/02/2009.

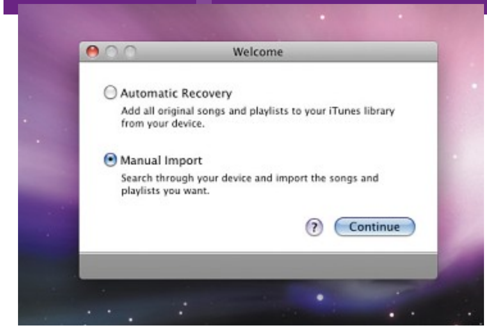
If you are experiencing problems with your iPod, you can restore its original settings by clicking Restore.

Options

☑ Open iTunes when this iPod is connected
☐ Sync only checked songs and videos
☑ Manually manage music and videos
☑ Enable disk use

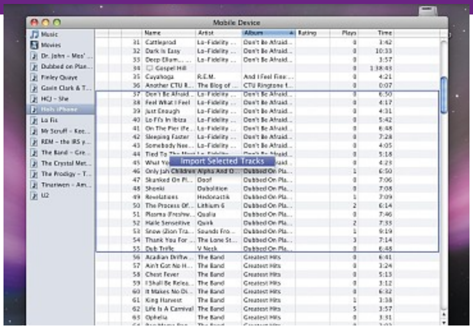
Capacity 55.79 GB
Audio 10.36 GB
Video 28.93 GB
Photos 18.3 MB
Other 7.99 GB
Free 8.50 GB

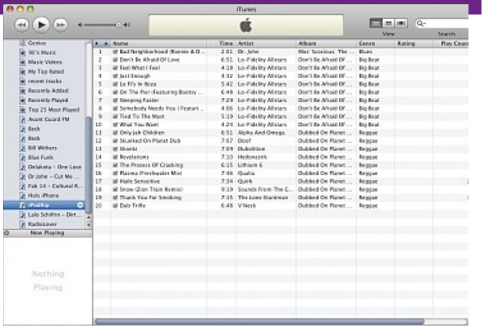
STEP BY STEP Recover music from an iPod back to your Mac


Welcome
○ Automatic Recovery
● Manual Import
?
Continue

Add all original songs and playlists to your iTunes library from your device.

Search through your device and import the songs and playlists you want.

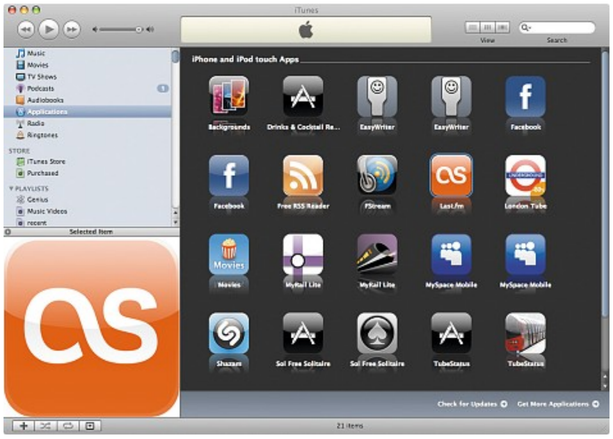

Mobile Device
Import Selected Tracks



01 Download *iPodRip* from **www.ipodrip.com** ($19.95, free demo available). Connect your iPod or iPhone and double-click to start the app. You are asked whether you want to do an automatic recovery – copying all songs – or a manual import where you choose only the songs and playlists you want.

02 If you choose to manually copy music, you will be able to select any playlist or alternatively, any number of tracks from the attached iPod or iPhone. You can choose non-sequential tracks by hitting ⌘ and clicking on them. If you right-click on the selected tracks or playlist, you will be able to import the tracks to *iTunes*.

03 *iPodRip* will copy the tracks into *iTunes* and place them into a playlist called **iPodRip**, unless you have specifically disabled this automatic naming in its preferences. The process is useful not only for recovering music when your Mac has crashed, but also for copying music and movies to two or more Macs from an iPod or iPhone. ●


iTunes
iPhone and iPod touch Apps
Backgrounds
Drinks & Cocktail Re...
EasyWriter
EasyWriter
Facebook
Facebook
Free RSS Reader
FStream
Last.fm
London Tube
Movies
MyRail Lite
MyRail Lite
MySpace Mobile
MySpace Mobile
Shazam
Sol Free Solitaire
Sol Free Solitaire
TubeStatus
TubeStatus
Check for Updates
Get More Applications
21 items

Manage apps on your iPhone or iPod touch

You can download applications directly onto your iPod touch or iPhone through the App Store, or download them through the iTunes Store on your Mac and then sync them to your device. When you connect the the iPod touch or iPhone to *iTunes*, it will back up copies of the apps to your Mac, where they will be placed in your Home folder > Music > iTunes > Mobile Applications. From the **Applications** tab in *iTunes* you can view, delete and update all the apps, then sync them back to the device. Or, on your iPod touch or iPhone, use the **Updates** tab in the App Store to install updates. Once you have purchased an application, the iTunes Store remembers this so even if you delete it by accident, you can re-download it for free. Applications can be dragged from *iTunes* to the Desktop, though like DRM-protected purchased music, they are limited to use on your authorised devices.

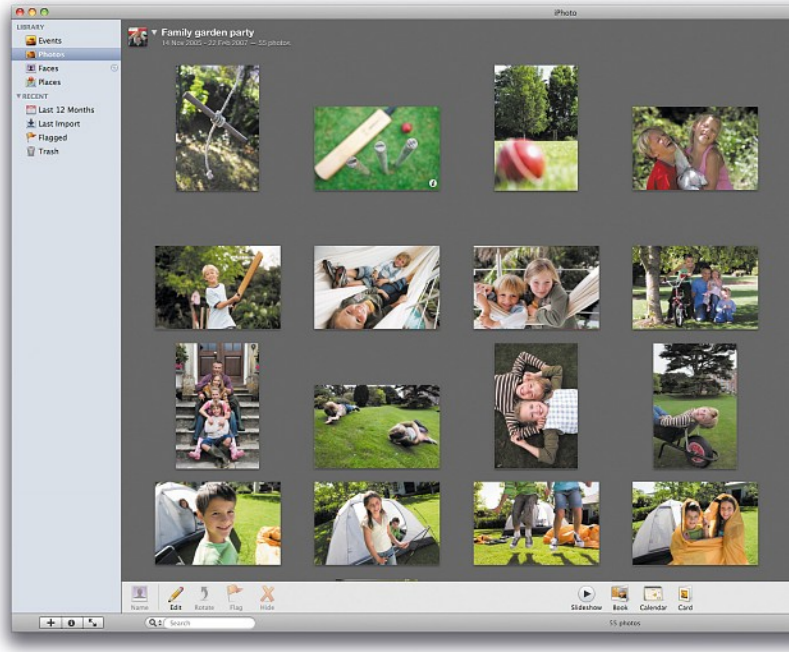
ABOVE: Applications are backed up onto your Mac by default. If you delete a purchased app, you can re-download it to the same device for free.

Prevent iPhoto launching

In many cases, the fact that your Mac recognises devices as you connect them and then automatically opens a helper application is great. Certainly when you connect an iPod, you'll want *iTunes* to open so you can manage the music, videos and other data on it. Similarly, when you connect an iPhone, OS X also opens *iPhoto* by default if there are any images in your iPhone's image library. However, this can actually be more annoying than helpful for some people.

OS X recognises the iPhone as a camera device, because of course it has a camera built in, but most people don't want to manage their pictures every time they connect, let alone having to wait for *iPhoto* to finish opening (which can take a while if you have a large photo library).

The way to stop this happening is to go to Applications > Image Capture, and open the application's preferences. Then choose **When a camera is connected, open : No application**. Now, connecting an iPhone won't cause *iPhoto* to open. If you decide you want to manage your pictures with an iPhone connected you can simply open *iPhoto* manually at any point and it will detect the iPhone and let you import the images stored on it.


iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events
Photos
Faces
Places
RECENT
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Trash
Family garden party
14 Nov 2005 – 22 Feb 2007 — 55 photos
Name
Edit
Rotate
Flag
Hide
Slideshow
Book
Calendar
Card
Search
55 photos

Tired of your iPhone automatically launching *iPhoto* every time you hook up to your Mac? You can easily adjust the settings to stop it.

Power up iTunes

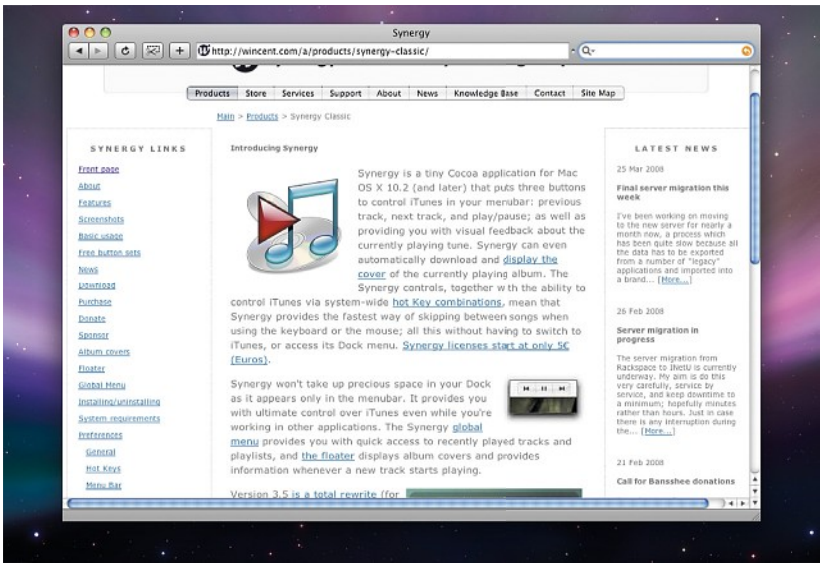
Enhance and expand your software to make your life easier

Control iTunes remotely from your iPhone

Many people now have a wireless network in their home and, of course, iPhones and iPod touches have wireless capabilities as well. In fact, if you have one you will almost certainly have it connected to your wireless network. *Remote* (made by Apple and available on the App Store) is a free application that gives you remote control over *iTunes*. When started, a unique passcode on your iPhone or iPod touch pairs it with your Mac (and Apple TV, if you have one). You then get an application that looks just like the iPod app on the iPhone, which contains playback, searching and volume controls for *iTunes* running on your computer! You can control *iTunes* in real-time, create Genius playlists and even view album art of your currently playing tracks. And because it works over a wireless network, it works from anywhere in your house – no line of sight required. It's an amazing tool and well worth checking out.

O2-UK
11:12
Settings
Playlists
Now Playing
Purchased
332 Items
Averages
3 Items
B-List
37 Items
Car
9 Items
Acoustic
167 Items
Auto Guilty Pleasures
41 Items
Automatic Top 40
40 Items
Brian Eno
22 Items
Playlists
Artists
Albums
Search
More

Remote uses your WiFi network to enable control over *iTunes* from an iPhone or iPod touch.


Synergy

http://wincent.com/a/products/synergy-classic/

Products | Store | Services | Support | About | News | Knowledge Base | Contact | Site Map

Main > Products > Synergy Classic

SYNERGY LINKS

Front page
About
Features
Screenshots
Basic usage
Free button sets
News
Download
Purchase
Donate
Sponsor
Album covers
Floater
Global Menu
Installing/uninstalling
System requirements
Preferences
General
Hot Keys
Menu Bar

Introducing Synergy

Synergy is a tiny Cocoa application for Mac OS X 10.2 (and later) that puts three buttons to control iTunes in your menubar: previous track, next track, and play/pause; as well as providing you with visual feedback about the currently playing tune. Synergy can even automatically download and display the cover of the currently playing album. The Synergy controls, together w th the ability to control iTunes via system-wide hot Key combinations, mean that Synergy provides the fastest way of skipping between songs when using the keyboard or the mouse; all this without having to switch to iTunes, or access its Dock menu. Synergy licenses start at only 5€ (Euros).

Synergy won't take up precious space in your Dock as it appears only in the menubar. It provides you with ultimate control over iTunes even while you're working in other applications. The Synergy global menu provides you with quick access to recently played tracks and playlists, and the floater displays album covers and provides information whenever a new track starts playing.

Version 3.5 is a total rewrite (for

LATEST NEWS

25 Mar 2008

Final server migration this week

I've been working on moving to the new server for nearly a month now, a process which has been quite slow because all the data has to be exported from a number of "legacy" applications and imported into a brand... [More...]

26 Feb 2008

Server migration in progress

The server migration from Rackspace to INetU is currently underway. My aim is do this very carefully, service by service, and keep downtime to a minimum; hopefully minutes rather than hours. Just in case there is any interruption during the... [More...]

21 Feb 2008

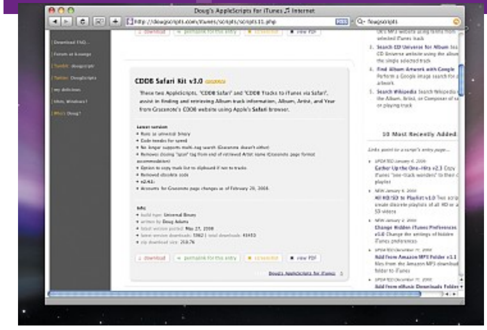
Call for Bansshee donations

***Synergy* is a tiny, unobtrusive application that gives you system-wide control of *iTunes* from the menu bar.**

Use iTunes from the menu bar

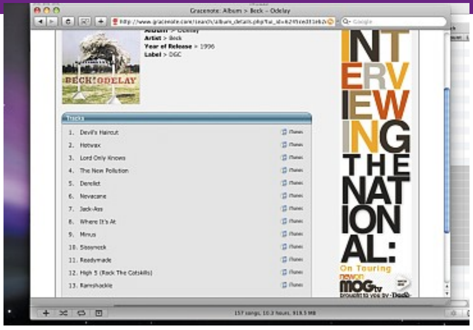
For some, especially those on laptops, even *iTunes*' minimised window still occupies too much screen space. *Synergy* (**http://wincent.com/a/products/synergy-classic**) is a €5 (£4) shareware application that sits in your menu bar and lets you control *iTunes* even when it is hidden. You can play, pause and skip, and by right-clicking you can switch between playlists, set preferences and in some cases buy albums from Amazon. There are many smaller, useful features like floating album-art windows that display briefly then fade away, hot keys for controlling *iTunes* without using the mouse, and a volume control. For those who like to leave *iTunes* running but don't want to see it while they work, *Synergy* (and programs like it) are a great way to maintain control without using screen space.

STEP BY STEP Enhance iTunes with AppleScripts



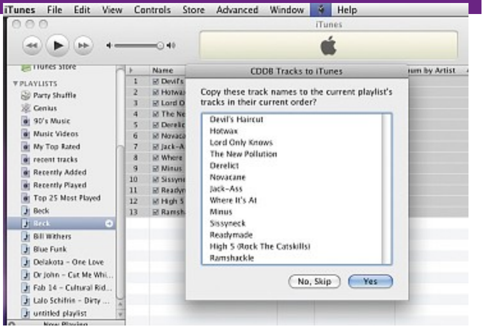
Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes ♫ Internet
http://dougscripts.com/itunes/scripts/scripts11.php
CDDB Safari Kit v1.0

01 Go to **http://dougscripts.com** where you will find a choice of 450 available scripts. One particularly useful script is *CDDB Safari Kit*. Download this, unzip it and copy the scripts to the [your username] > Library > iTunes > Scripts folder, creating the folder if necessary as directed by the instructions.



Gracenote: Album > Beck – Odelay
http://www.gracenote.com/search/album_details.php
BECK! ODELAY
Artist > Beck
Year of Release > 1996
Label > DGC
Tracks
1. Devil's Haircut
2. Hotwax
3. Lord Only Knows
4. The New Pollution
5. Derelict
6. Novacane
7. Jack-Ass
8. Where It's At
9. Minus
10. Sissyneck
11. Readymade
12. High 5 (Rock The Catskills)
13. Ramshackle
INTERVIEWING THE NATION:
On Touring
MOG TV

02 Now locate the files with missing information and put them into a playlist. Maybe you know the album name but not the track names, or the track names but not the album name. Go to **www.cddb.com** and enter the information you do have to locate the album, matching track counts to make sure you have the right one selected.



iTunes
File
Edit
View
Controls
Store
Advanced
Window
Help
iTunes Store
PLAYLISTS
Party Shuffle
Genius
90's Music
Music Videos
My Top Rated
recent tracks
Recently Added
Recently Played
Top 25 Most Played
Beck
Beck
Bill Withers
Blue Funk
Delakota – One Love
Dr John – Cut Me Whi...
Fab 14 – Cultural Rid...
Lalo Schifrin – Dirty ...
untitled playlist
Name
No, Skip
Yes

CDDB Tracks to iTunes

Copy these track names to the current playlist's tracks in their current order?

Devil's Haircut
Hotwax
Lord Only Knows
The New Pollution
Derelict
Novacane
Jack-Ass
Where It's At
Minus
Sissyneck
Readymade
High 5 (Rock The Catskills)
Ramshackle

03 From *iTunes*' **Script** menu (once you have installed a script, a small script icon will appear along the menu bar), select the **CCDB Tracks To iTunes via Safari** script. If you have got the right album, the script will gather the track info from CDDB and copy it into the *iTunes* tracks. It's much quicker than doing it by hand. ●

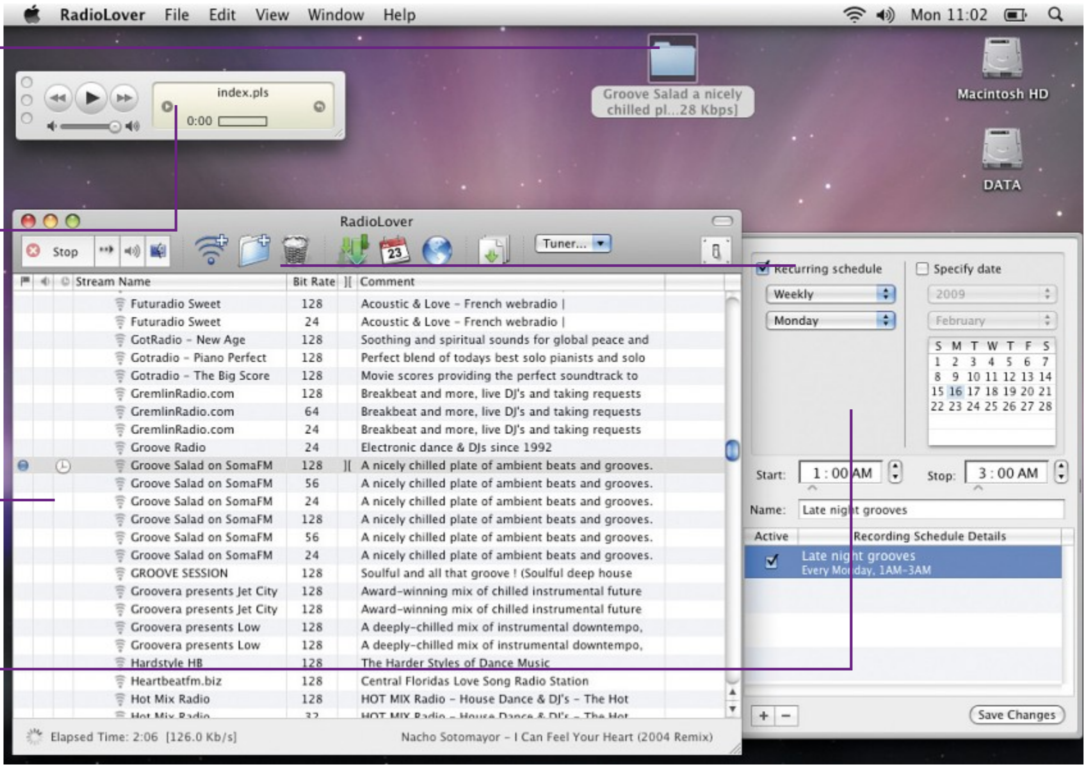
TOP FEATURES | Record radio on your Mac with RadioLover (on your disc)

The recorded files
RadioLover will place the recorded tracks anywhere you like, properly tagged and in named folders so they're easy to locate.

iTunes radio
With *iTunes* running in the background, all radio stations that are visible in *iTunes* will also be visible to *RadioLover*.

Recording streams
Choose the highest-quality radio stream that's available and record it as an MP3, complete with track and artist names, with tracks split automatically.

Schedule recordings
Use the **Recurring Schedule** option so you never miss a show. Also good if you need to record something that's on in the middle of the night.



Stream Name	Bit Rate	][	Comment
Futuradio Sweet	128		Acoustic & Love – French webradio |
Futuradio Sweet	24		Acoustic & Love – French webradio |
GotRadio – New Age	128		Soothing and spiritual sounds for global peace and
Gotradio – Piano Perfect	128		Perfect blend of todays best solo pianists and solo
Gotradio – The Big Score	128		Movie scores providing the perfect soundtrack to
GremlinRadio.com	128		Breakbeat and more, live DJ's and taking requests
GremlinRadio.com	64		Breakbeat and more, live DJ's and taking requests
GremlinRadio.com	24		Breakbeat and more, live DJ's and taking requests
Groove Radio	24		Electronic dance & DJs since 1992
Groove Salad on SomaFM	128	][	A nicely chilled plate of ambient beats and grooves.
Groove Salad on SomaFM	56		A nicely chilled plate of ambient beats and grooves.
Groove Salad on SomaFM	24		A nicely chilled plate of ambient beats and grooves.
Groove Salad on SomaFM	128		A nicely chilled plate of ambient beats and grooves.
Groove Salad on SomaFM	56		A nicely chilled plate of ambient beats and grooves.
Groove Salad on SomaFM	24		A nicely chilled plate of ambient beats and grooves.
GROOVE SESSION	128		Soulful and all that groove ! (Soulful deep house
Groovera presents Jet City	128		Award-winning mix of chilled instrumental future
Groovera presents Jet City	128		Award-winning mix of chilled instrumental future
Groovera presents Low	128		A deeply-chilled mix of instrumental downtempo,
Groovera presents Low	128		A deeply-chilled mix of instrumental downtempo,
Hardstyle HB	128		The Harder Styles of Dance Music
Heartbeatfm.biz	128		Central Floridas Love Song Radio Station
Hot Mix Radio	128		HOT MIX Radio – House Dance & DJ's – The Hot
Hot Mix Radio	32		HOT MIX Radio – House Dance & DJ's – The Hot

Elapsed Time: 2:06 [126.0 Kb/s]
Nacho Sotomayor – I Can Feel Your Heart (2004 Remix)

☑ Recurring schedule
Weekly
Monday

☐ Specify date
2009
February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Start: 1 : 00 AM
Stop: 3 : 00 AM
Name: Late night grooves

Active	Recording Schedule Details
☑	Late night grooves Every Monday, 1AM-3AM

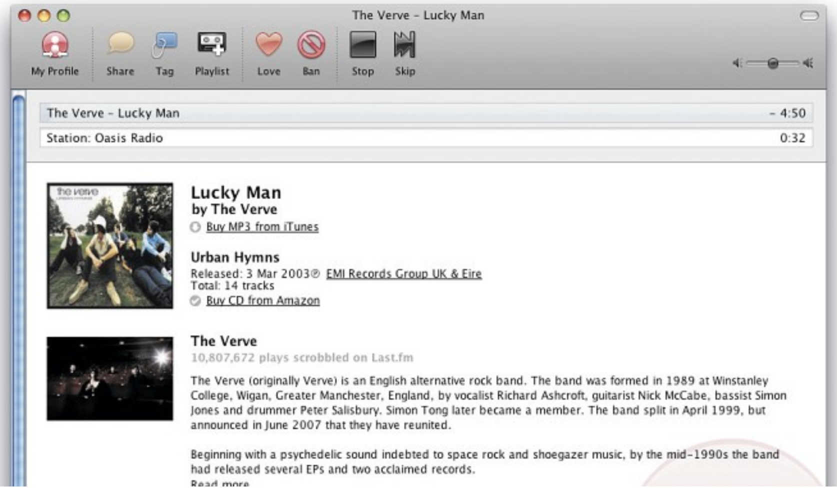
Find album artwork that iTunes misses

Delakota One Lov
Set as album art in iTunes

iTunes and all recent iPods can display album artwork, which is nice to be able to see as you listen to music. *iTunes* now has the ability to automatically fetch album art online but it isn't always able to find the correct covers if your album is older, obscure or not in the iTunes Store. The *Amazon Album Art* widget (on the disc) lives in *Dashboard* and is a great solution to finding artwork that *iTunes* can't locate. Simply select all the relevant tracks in *iTunes*, call up the widget and then press the little *iTunes* icon. It should then find the art, and you can click to attach to the selected files in *iTunes*. If it finds the wrong artwork, click the small box at the top-right to see alternatives it has found. If it still finds nothing, it offers the option to Google for the requested cover. You can type in the text field to refine or change the search terms.

Link up with Last.fm to get free music streamed to your Mac or iPhone

Last.fm is a website that offers free, legal, streaming music. The way it works is to note what you listen to and recommends similar music based on yours and other listeners' habits. To enable this to happen, install *iScrobbler* from the disc, a small application that lives in your menu bar. Whenever you play a track in *iTunes*, it sends the name of the track to your Last.fm profile, gradually building up a database of your most listened-to tracks. Using the *Last.fm* app (on the disc) you can receive new music radio tailored to your existing listening habits. There's also a *Last.fm* application for the iPod touch and iPhone, which lets you stream tracks you've played before, or stream recommended tracks whilst on the move. Combine this with an audio-out cable and a hi-fi, and you've got a ready-made radio station to use at parties or other events. ●



The Verve – Lucky Man – 4:50
Station: Oasis Radio 0:32

Lucky Man
by The Verve
Buy MP3 from iTunes

Urban Hymns
Released: 3 Mar 2003℗ EMI Records Group UK & Eire
Total: 14 tracks
Buy CD from Amazon

The Verve
10,807,672 plays scrobbled on Last.fm

The Verve (originally Verve) is an English alternative rock band. The band was formed in 1989 at Winstanley College, Wigan, Greater Manchester, England, by vocalist Richard Ashcroft, guitarist Nick McCabe, bassist Simon Jones and drummer Peter Salisbury. Simon Tong later became a member. The band split in April 1999, but announced in June 2007 that they have reunited.

Beginning with a psychedelic sound indebted to space rock and shoegazer music, by the mid-1990s the band had released several EPs and two acclaimed records.
Read more

The *Last.fm Player* can stream free music to you and will recommend tracks based on what you have previously played in *iTunes*.

JESSOPS

Photo software

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Minimum system requirements: Windows 2000, XP, Vista. Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard. All copyrights and ancillary copyrights reserved. Jessops takes no liability for damage resulting from use of the CD-ROM.

We've delved even deeper into *iWork* and *iLife '09* in this issue's tutorial section, and I'm delighted to draw your attention to Steve Paris's excellent tutorial on using *iMovie '09*'s fantastic **Precision Editor** – with this feature, Apple has brought back much of the finesse that editing in *iMovie 6 HD* gave you, but it needs a little explaining.

We also show you how to get the best out of the newly beefed-up mail merge features of *Pages '09*, demonstrating how to create reams of personalised letters and brochures with ease. Thanks in part to features like this, *iWork* is increasingly becoming a legitimate competitor to Microsoft *Office*, and competition is good for everyone, especially us end users!

And our illustrious Editor takes the plunge, downloads the beta of *Safari 4.0*, and gives us the grand tour of its features on p56 – will you be tempted to install it?

Precision Editor in *iMovie '09* **p46**

A visual tour of *Safari 4* beta **p56**

Mail merge in *Pages '09* **p58**

How to…

MacFormat brings you all the tips, tricks and tutorials you need to get the most from your Apple products

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Keep your Mac tidy 64

Next issue

There's still so much from the new versions of *iLife* and *iWork* that we want to tell you about, so we're going to set aside a couple of pages to walk you through the fantastic *iWeb* Widgets.

We also go back to basics with a great tutorial on the criminally under-appreciated Exposé and Spaces features, and show you an amazing site for creating slick presentations online.

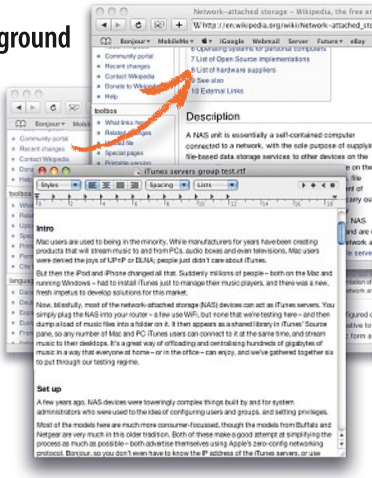
Do more with *iWeb*'s Widgets

Exploit Exposé and Spaces

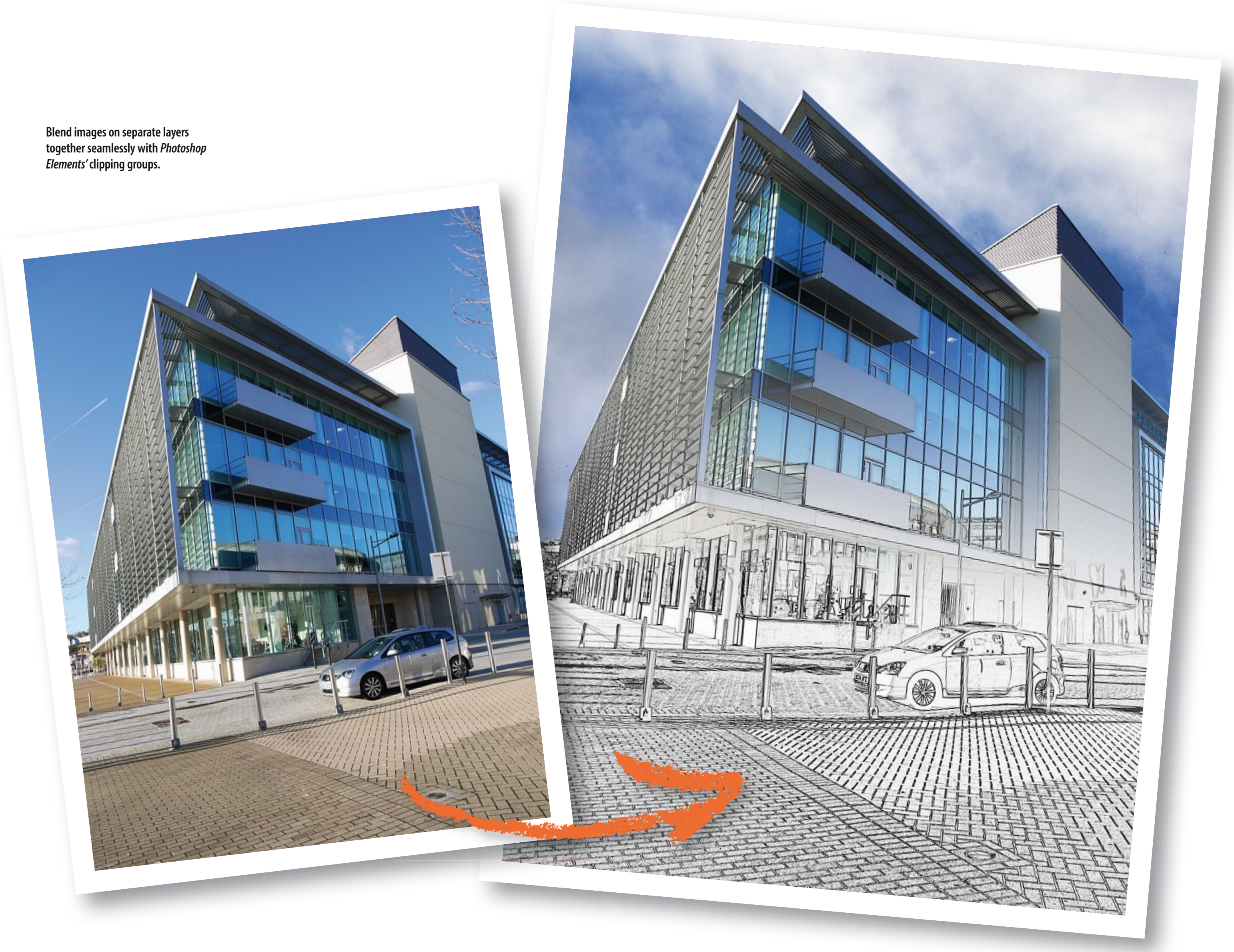
Create free presentations

Did you know?

You can move a window in the background



Normally, you have to make a window active – simply by clicking it – before you can move it, but there's actually a handy little trick that will let you move a window without making it active. It's particularly useful, for example, if you're working on a word processing document and need to nudge the *Safari* window that's behind it a little to read the research document you have open in Wikipedia. It means you don't have to re-click on the document to make it active again after moving the *Safari* window. Simply hold down ⌘ as you drag the background window's title bar. ●



Blend images on separate layers together seamlessly with *Photoshop Elements'* clipping groups.

Blend images effectively

Photoshop Elements' clipping groups enable you to work with layers and blend them together

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Adobe *Photoshop Elements* (£58, **www.adobe.com/uk**)
- Two or more images to combine
- 15 minutes of your time

Layer masks are really useful things, and it's frustrating that you get them in the full-fat *Photoshop* but not in the slimmed-down *Photoshop Elements*. The point of a layer mask is that it enables you to blend layers together non-destructively. You can use the **Eraser** tool to remove unwanted parts of a layer in *Elements*, of course, but it's difficult to make subtle adjustments, and if you get it wrong you have to start again.

But there is another way to achieve the same effect as layer masks in *Elements*, and it's via clipping groups. These are available in *Photoshop*, too, so our example will work in both programs. The principle is pretty straightforward: the bottom layer in a clipping group controls the visibility of the layer(s) above it in the group.

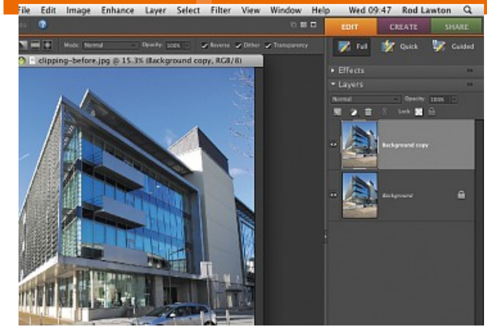
> "A layer mask affects only the layer it's attached to; clipping groups can be applied across several layers"

There is a key difference, though. In a layer mask, the transparency is adjusted using black, white and shades of grey in between. In a clipping group, the transparency is adjusted using the transparency of the bottom layer and colour has nothing to do with it. Where the bottom layer has 100% opacity, so do the layers above it in the group. Where it's transparent or partially transparent, this is how the layers above will appear.

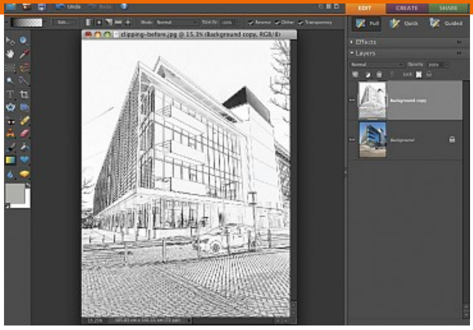
Our walkthrough on the following page shows how clipping groups can be used in *Photoshop Elements* to achieve the same results as a layer mask in *Photoshop*. In fact, clipping groups are a little more powerful than this. Where a layer mask affects only the layer it's attached to, the masking effect of clipping groups can be applied across several layers at once, so really we're just scratching the surface here.

Rod Lawton

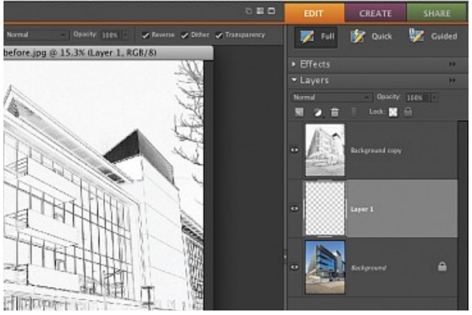
STEP BY STEP Using clipping groups to work with layers


File Edit Image Enhance Layer Select Filter View Window Help Wed 09:47 Rod Lawton
EDIT CREATE SHARE
Full Quick Guided
clipping-before.jpg @ 15.3% (Background copy, RGB/8)
Effects
Layers
Background copy
Background

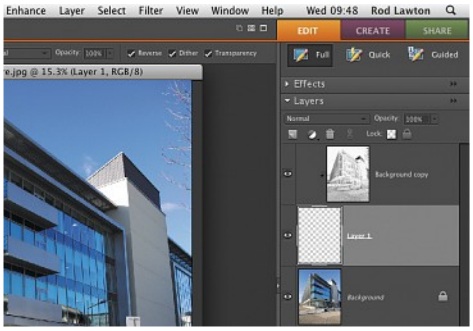
01 First of all you need the two images you want to blend as separate layers within the same document. In this instance we're blending two versions of the same image to give the impression of an artist's sketch blending into a real building, so all we need to do to start with is duplicate the image layer.


clipping-before.jpg @ 15.3% (Background copy, RGB/8)
EDIT CREATE SHARE
Effects
Layers
Background copy
Background

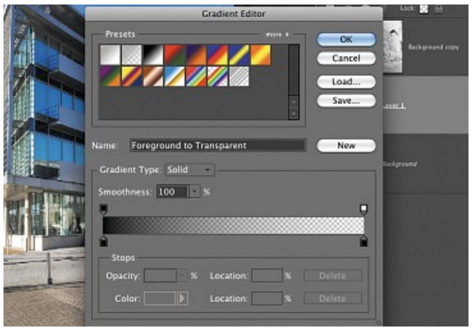
02 To create the look of a line drawing in the new layer, we've applied the Filter > Stylize > Find Edges filter and then desaturated it with the ⌘+⇧+[U] shortcut. Note that at the moment, the new layer completely obscures the original image layer underneath. What we actually want is to blend them smoothly together.


Enhance Layer Select Filter View Window Help Wed 09:47 Rod Lawton
EDIT CREATE SHARE
Full Quick Guided
before.jpg @ 15.3% (Layer 1, RGB/8)
Effects
Layers
Background copy
Layer 1
Background

03 We can't use a layer mask because we're doing this in *Elements*. What we need to do first, then, is create a new, blank layer just below our duplicated layer. We don't see any difference at the moment, but this is going to be our clipping layer and it's going to serve the same function as a layer mask in *Photoshop*.

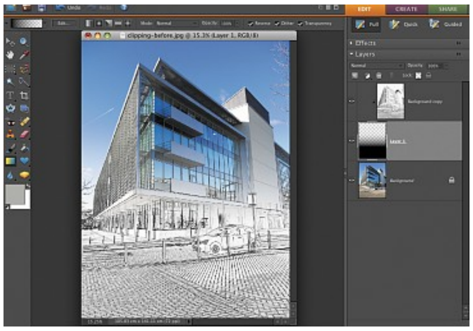

Enhance Layer Select Filter View Window Help Wed 09:48 Rod Lawton
EDIT CREATE SHARE
Full Quick Guided
e.jpg @ 15.3% (Layer 1, RGB/8)
Effects
Layers
Background copy
Layer 1
Background

04 Hold down the ⌥ key, then move the mouse pointer over the division between this blank layer and the one above it in the **Layers** palette, so the mouse pointer changes to a set of overlapping circles. If you click now, the bottom layer becomes a clipping layer for the one above. And as it contains no pixels, the top layer is now invisible.

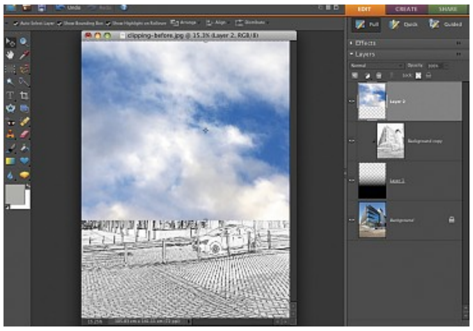

Gradient Editor
Presets
OK
Cancel
Load...
Save...
New
Stops
Opacity:
Location:
Color:
Delete

Name: Foreground to Transparent
Gradient Type: Solid
Smoothness: 100 %

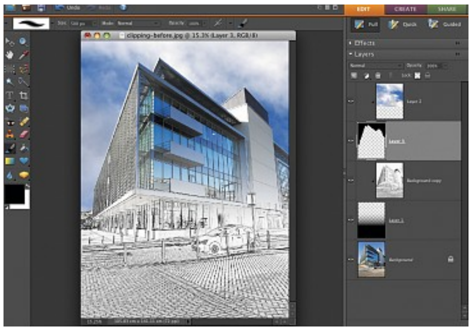
05 We need to modify this clipping layer so parts of the top layer become visible. We can do this with a gradient that goes from a solid colour to transparency – not from one colour to another – and if you don't have a suitable preset it only takes a few moments to make one in the **Gradient Editor**.


EDIT CREATE SHARE
clipping-before.jpg @ 15.3% (Layer 1, RGB/8)
Effects
Layers

06 We need to drag out this gradient on the clipping layer we've just created. Where this layer contains pixels, the layer above it becomes visible. But where the clipping layer contains no pixels or they're partially transparent, the layer above is invisible or partly visible. It's like using a layer mask, but the principles are slightly different.

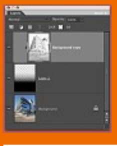

EDIT CREATE SHARE
clipping-before.jpg @ 15.3% (Layer 2, RGB/8)

07 You can use more than one clipping group in a document, and in that document have the same flexibility as with layer masks. For example, we might decide that the sky in this image is too bland and that we need to blend in a new sky instead. The first step is to drag the new image on to our document as a new layer.


EDIT CREATE SHARE
clipping-before.jpg @ 15.3% (Layer 3, RGB/8)

08 Then we create a new clipping layer for the sky and use the **Magic Wand** tool on the background layer to select the old sky. Back on the new clipping layer, we fill this selection with a solid colour to make the new sky visible. The clipping layer is just as editable as a regular layer mask, and can be tidied up with the **Brush** and **Eraser** tools. ●

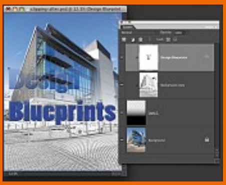
TOOL SCHOOL

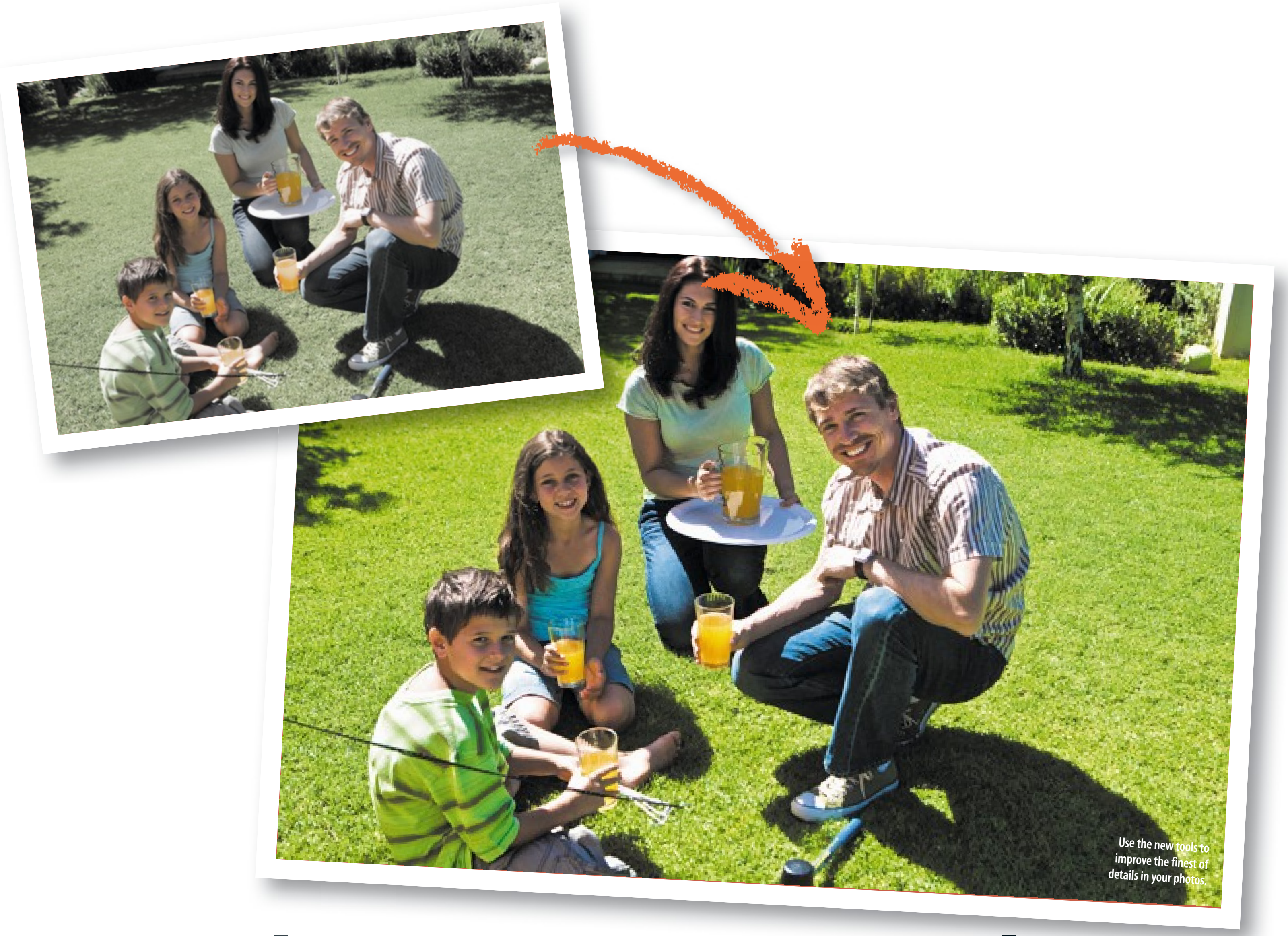


Unlike a layer mask, a clipping layer sits below the layer(s) it's applied to rather than alongside, and these layers are inset to show they're part of the clipping group.

EXPERT TIP

To clip more than one layer, drag the new layer's icon between any layers currently in the clipping group. Clipping groups work seamlessly with type layers and layer styles.


Design Blueprints



Use the new tools to improve the finest of details in your photos.

Use iPhoto '09's new tools

Adjust definition and colour saturation with the powerful new tools in iPhoto '09

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple *iPhoto '09* (£69, part of *iLife '09*, **http://store.apple.com**)
- A photo that needs adjusting
- About 20 minutes

When Apple released *iPhoto '09* as part of the new *iLife '09* suite, it was the new **Faces** and **Places** features that grabbed most of the attention. That makes sense, as those features build on *iPhoto's* strengths as a tool for organising collections of photos.

However, Apple has added some powerful new editing tools to *iPhoto '09* as well. The most important improvements here are the new **Definition** slider control and an option called **Avoid saturating skin tones**, both of which are in the **Adjust** palette.

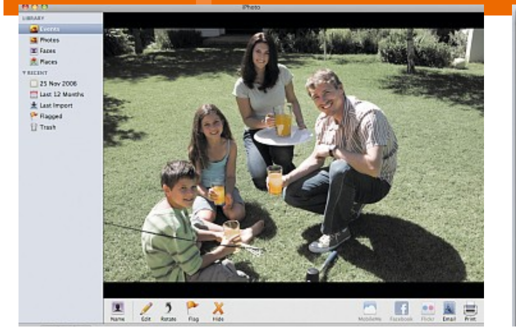
The **Definition** control is self-explanatory – it allows you to increase the definition of a photo to make the image appear sharper and more detailed. It can't work miracles, though. If the original photo is blurry then there's not a lot that *iPhoto* can do about it. However, it can enhance the lighting and contrast, which will bring out the existing detail more effectively.

> "The important new improvements are the Definition slider and the Avoid saturating skin tones option"

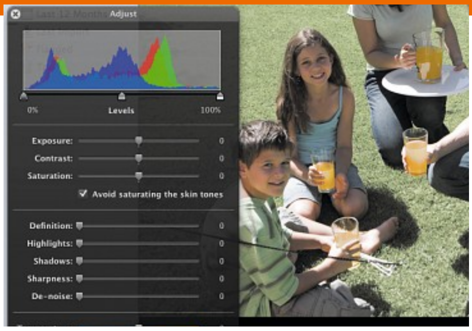
The skin tones option is a refinement of the program's existing **Saturation** tool. The **Saturation** slider previously allowed you to increase the intensity of colours to make them look bolder and more vivid. In the past the **Saturation** control would increase all colours equally, with the result meaning skin tones could end up looking as though the person had fallen asleep on a sunbed. To eliminate that effect, the **Avoid saturating skin tones** option allows *iPhoto* to isolate skin tones and leave them relatively untouched while increasing the intensity of other colours. There are other improvements, such as the new red-eye removal tool. However, the **Definition** and skin tone options are the most important.

Cliff Joseph

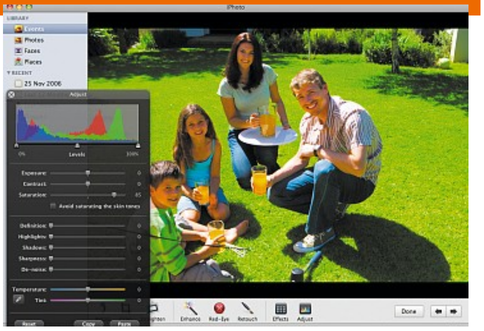
STEP BY STEP Brightening up a dull image



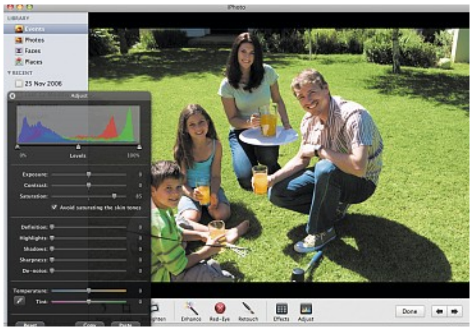
01 Here the grass is a bit on the pale side, and the wan light means that this image isn't quite as bright or sharply defined as we'd like. Fortunately, we can rescue the image by fine-tuning it using the new saturation tool and **Definition** slider control, both of which can be found in this latest version of *iPhoto*.



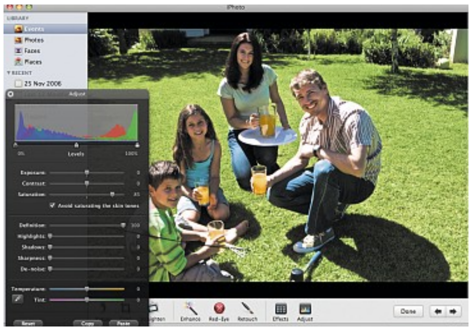
02 Click **Edit** at the bottom of the screen to switch into editing mode. Then click **Adjust** (or just use the ⌘+[A] shortcut) to open up the **Adjust** palette. The previous version of *iPhoto* already had a **Saturation** slider that allowed you to adjust the intensity of colours, but *iPhoto '09* adds a new option to **Avoid saturating skin tones.**



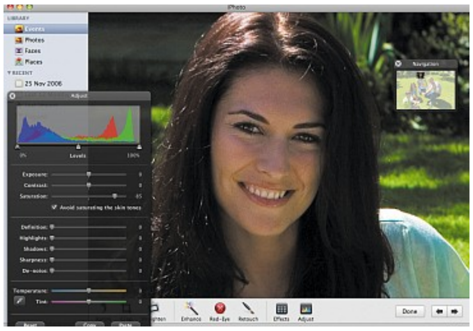
03 The **Avoid** option is turned on by default, but we'll just turn it off for a moment in order to show more clearly how it works. Now use the **Saturation** slider to boost the colour saturation until the grass looks really green. The problem now is that all the people look like they've got fake tans – not the effect we were looking for.



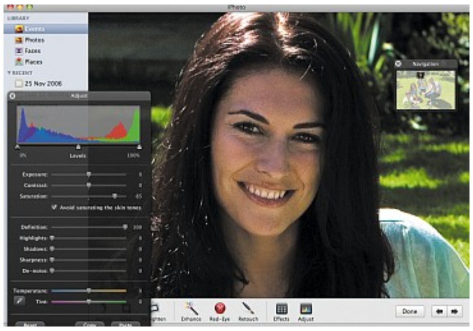
04 Now click on the **Avoid saturating the skin tones** box to turn it on again, and you'll see that the skin tones are toned down to more natural levels. In fact, you can slide the **Saturation** level up and down at random to see that the skin tones barely change at all, even though all the other colours in the photo become more saturated.



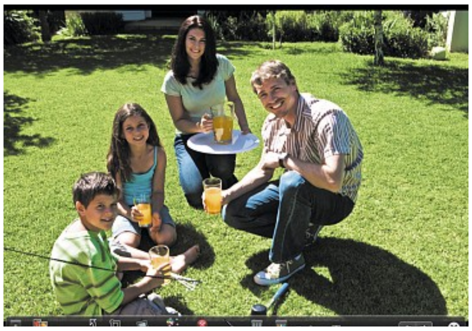
05 The other important addition to the **Adjust** palette is the new **Definition** slider. As the name implies, this feature can be used to enhance the definition of a photo so that it looks sharper and more detailed. If we ramp the slider to 100% you'll see that it brings out fine details such as hair and blades of grass. Let's take a closer look.



06 Use the **Magnification** slider in the lower-right corner to enlarge the photo. A **Navigation** palette will appear so you can zoom in on a specific area. Let's use the **Navigation** palette to home in on a face and to pick out some finer details, such as this woman's eyebrows. Drop the **Definition** slider back down to zero again.



07 The **Definition** control can't add or create detail that isn't in the original photo. Instead it increases the contrast between lighter and darker elements, such as this woman's eyebrows, which are surrounded by her paler skin. If we push the **Definition** slider up, *iPhoto* increases the contrast between these elements, and the brows stand out.



08 Let's switch to **full-screen** mode to see the final photo. The grass is vivid, and details such as the blades of grass are brought out. Other details have also been improved, such as the stripes on the man's shirt. If anything goes wrong you can use the **Revert to Previous** command in the **Photos** menu to switch back to the original photo. ●

TOOL SCHOOL

The new auto red-eye tool can remove red-eye from multiple faces within a photo simultaneously. Just select the Red-Eye tool in Editing mode and then click the auto button to activate the tool.

EXPERT TIP

One handy option when working on your photos is to press ⇧ to instantly compare the before and after versions of the image.

Use iMovie's Precision Editor

The new Precision Editor is a remarkably powerful tool designed to ease the editing process

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

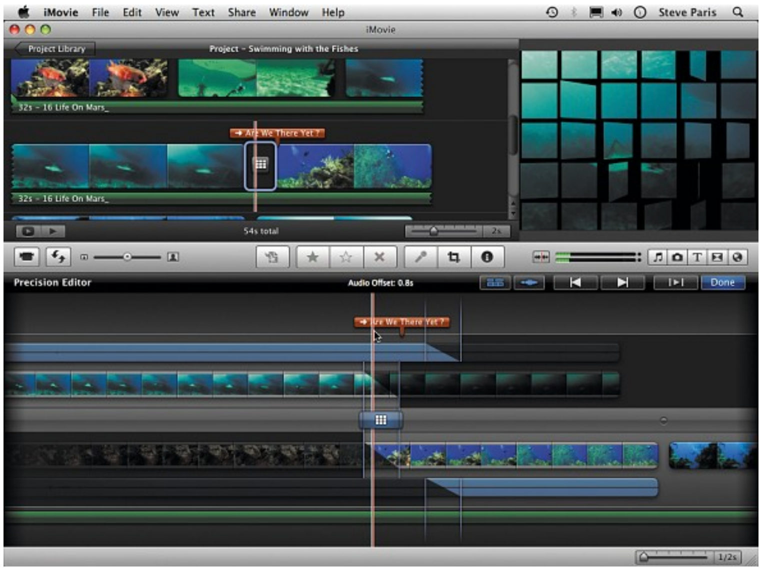
- Apple *iMovie '09* (£69, part of *iLife '09*, **http://store.apple.com**)
- A project ready to fine-tune
- 30 minutes of your time

When Apple created *iMovie '08*, the team of developers completely rewrote the application from scratch and came up with a unique way of editing home movies quickly and easily. This resulted in a loss of many tools which more professional users had taken for granted and led to a slew of complaints. Apple relented somewhat and offered *iMovie 6 HD* as a free download.

If you look at the two versions of the program side by side, the older version looks incredibly antiquated, and it's obvious that a radical redesign was necessary in order to attract *iMovie*'s original target audience: people who know nothing about filmmaking and just want to dip in and cut a home movie in minutes.

In that, *iMovie '08* was a resounding success. But no matter how much of a novice you might be, there always comes a time when you outgrow the tools that you own. In this case, neither downgrading to *iMovie 6 HD* nor upgrading to the more professional *Final Cut Express* feels appropriate. Thankfully, Apple has added so many new and amazing features to *iMovie '09* without altering the application's ease of use, that neither of the previous options are necessary. The new *'09* version of *iMovie* has finally come of age but hides those new powerful tools well enough so as not to scare off the complete neophyte.

> "Apple has added so many new and amazing features to iMovie '09 without altering its ease of use"

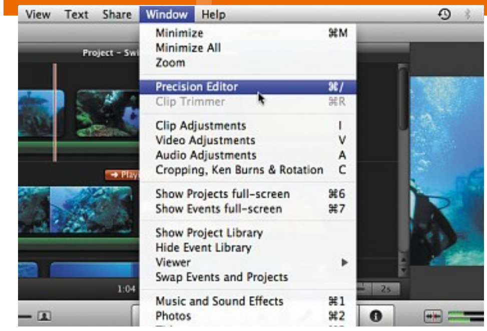

iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Steve Paris
Project Library
Project – Swimming with the Fishes
32s – 16 Life On Mars
Are We There Yet?
54s total
Precision Editor
Audio Offset: 0.8s
Done

Apple *iMovie '09* has some amazing new tools to make cutting a movie easier and more precise. One such tool is the **Precision Editor**.

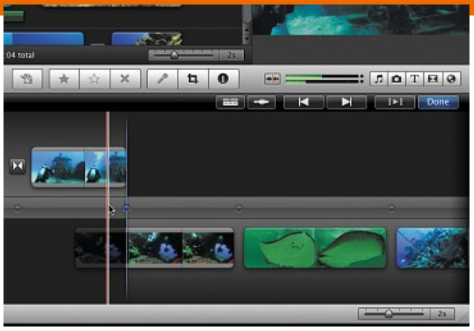
One of these fantastic new tools is called the **Precision Editor** and is designed to help you cut a movie as accurately as possible. With it you can see the end of a clip and the start of the other side by side, and you can trim either end with ease. The **Precision Editor** has quite a few tricks up its sleeve and we'll be taking a look at all of them over these two pages.

Steve Paris

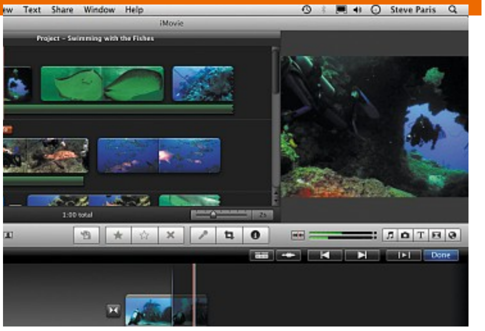
STEP BY STEP Use the Precision Editor to fine-tune your project


View Text Share Window Help
Minimize ⌘M
Minimize All
Zoom
Precision Editor ⌘/
Clip Trimmer ⌘R
Clip Adjustments I
Video Adjustments V
Audio Adjustments A
Cropping, Ken Burns & Rotation C
Show Projects full-screen ⌘6
Show Events full-screen ⌘7
Show Project Library
Hide Event Library
Viewer
Swap Events and Projects
Music and Sound Effects ⌘1
Photos ⌘2

01 There are many ways to access the **Precision Editor**: you can mouse over the desired edit point, move quickly to the menu bar (so as not to accidentally alter the playhead's location) and choose Window > Precision Editor. Alternatively, use the ⌘+[/] shortcut. The easiest way, though, is to double-click on the gap between the two clips.

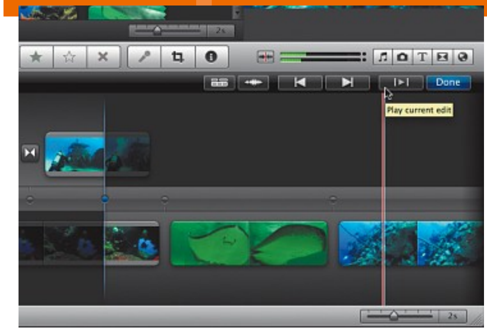


02 The **Precision Editor** replaces the **Event Library** and **Browser** sections, which are, by default, at the bottom of the interface. This gives you the largest canvas possible to work on your edit. You see two video layers. The top one is the clip on the left; the bottom one represents the one on the right. The thin blue line shows the edit point.

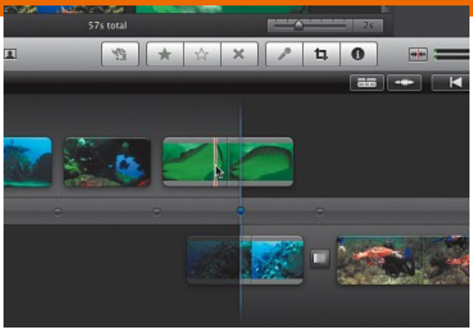

Text Share Window Help
Steve Paris
iMovie
Project – Swimming with the Fishes
Done

03 You can skim through a clip just like you can in other parts of *iMovie*, by mousing over it and seeing the results in the **Preview** section. To change where the cut happens, click on the clip. The blue line representing the edit point stays still, but the clip slides along until the frame you wish to end on has moved to the edit point.

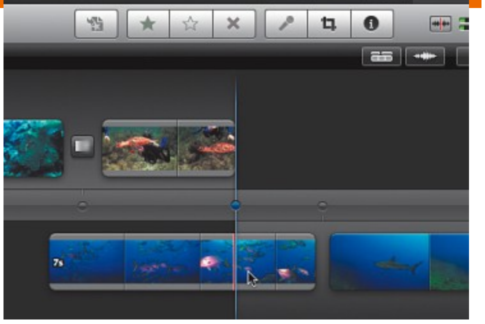
STEP BY STEP Use the Precision Editor to fine-tune your project… continued


Done
Play current edit

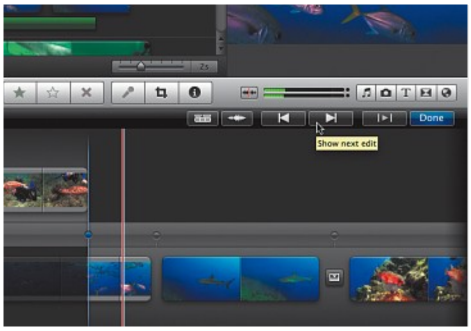
04 Click on the **Play Current Edit** button (to the left of the blue **Done** button). *iMovie* will start playing two seconds before the edit and end two seconds after. If you'd like to see more, make sure the cursor isn't over a clip. Mouse along to move the playhead to the right location, then hit the [Spacebar].



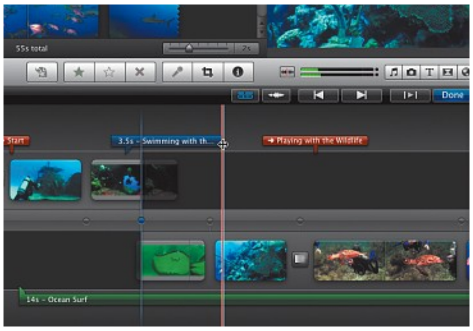
05 Move the cursor over a clip and the dimmed portion on the other side of the blue edit line lights up. If you were to hit the [Spacebar] now, the edit point would be ignored and *iMovie* would play back the entire available clip before moving on to the next clip beneath it.



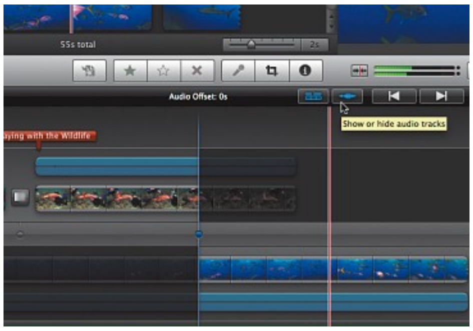
06 Another way of altering the edit point is by clicking on a clip and dragging it left or right. Normally the cursor determines what you see in the **Preview** section. In this case, what is displayed is the last frame of your edit. Release the mouse button and the cut is made. You cannot completely remove a clip from your edit this way.


Done
Show next edit

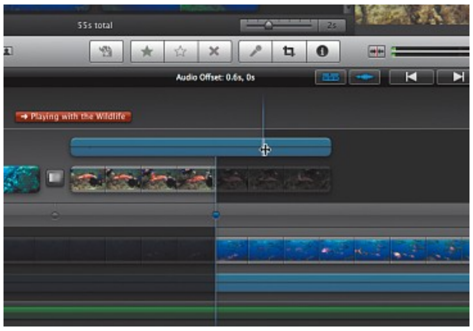
07 If you have many short clips, you may notice one blue circle and many grey ones in between the two video layers. Click on a grey one to move to that edit point without having to select it first in the **Project** section. Alternatively, you can click on the **Show Previous Edit** and **Show Next Edit** buttons, top-right of the **Precision Editor**.


55s total
Done
Start
3.5s – Swimming with th…
Playing with the Wildlife
14s – Ocean Surf

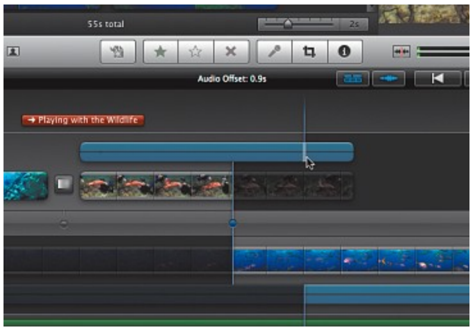
08 If you've added anything else to your project, like titles, chapter markers, audio effects, etc., you can see and alter them all by clicking on the **Show or Hide Extras** button. These will appear and you'll be able to move them around or alter their length. You cannot, however, edit or delete them. That functionality is reserved for the **Project** section.


55s total
Audio Offset: 0s
Show or hide audio tracks
…ying with the Wildlife

09 Click on the **Show or Hide Audio Tracks** button (to the right of **Show or Hide Extras**) to reveal the clips' own audio tracks (represented by thick blue banners above the top clip and below the bottom one). You can use them to make the audio of one clip continue beyond the visual cut.

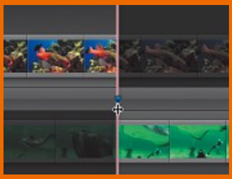

55s total
Audio Offset: 0.6s, 0s
Playing with the Wildlife

10 Move the mouse over the top blue audio track. As you get to the blue edit line, the cursor changes to a **Resize** tool. Click on the line and drag it to the left or right to alter when the audio is cut independently of the video. Notice that this doesn't affect the second clip's audio.


55s total
Audio Offset: 0.9s
Playing with the Wildlife

11 You could end up with two audio tracks playing simultaneously. To know how much of the second clip's audio to remove or extend, have a look at the top of the **Precision Editor**. It says **Audio Offset**. As you drag the playhead, the time is altered. Holding down the ⇧ key alters both audio clips at the same time. ●

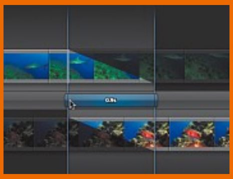
TOOL SCHOOL



If the combined length of both clips must be preserved, you can click and drag the blue circle itself to alter when the cut takes place.

EXPERT TIP

You can also control transitions through the Precision Editor. You can increase its length by dragging either its left or right side.



Mix and arrange your songs

Refine your sound until it's perfect using GarageBand's mixing tools

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple *GarageBand '09* (£69, part of *iLife '09*, **http://store.apple.com**)
- Intel or PowerPC G4 or G5
- Mac OS X 10.5.6

iLIFE ESSENTIALS • iLIFE ESSENTIALS •

Mixing is the act of getting all the various components of your song working together and making everything sound as good as possible. Arranging is, in a basic sense, the order of components in a piece of music. In pop songs, this centres around intros, verses, choruses and bridges.

Experimenting with arrangement in *GarageBand* is made easier by the **Arrange Bar**, which enables you to define arrange regions and then drag them about and duplicate them, making it a cinch to reorder song components. Mixing, however, is a different story.

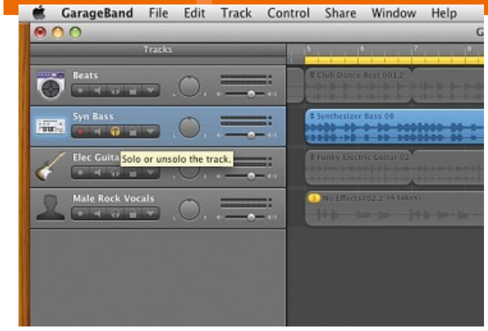
> "Experimenting with arrangement in GarageBand is made easier by the Arrange Bar"

It would be a fib to claim that *GarageBand* makes mixing child's play, since mixing is something of an art. It's safe to say that if you look at a chart-topping album, the mixing part of the project is often the lengthiest, as engineers and producers strive to get every element of every track sounding perfect. *GarageBand* does offer a bunch of features that can at least get you started, though, including song-wide effects and controls that enable you to tweak and fine-tune individual tracks.

Try to make sure all the elements within the mix are distinct – vocals, in particular, are often 'buried' (mixed too low) by home recordists. And take full advantage of one freely available resource away from your Mac: friends and family. After all, several pairs of ears are better than one!

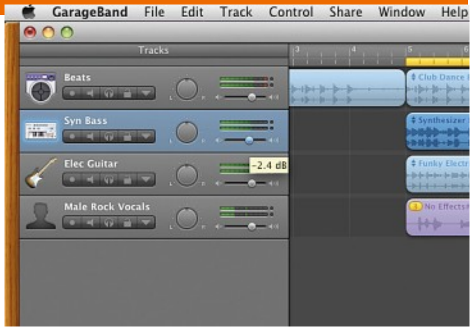
Craig Grannell

STEP BY STEP Master basic track controls

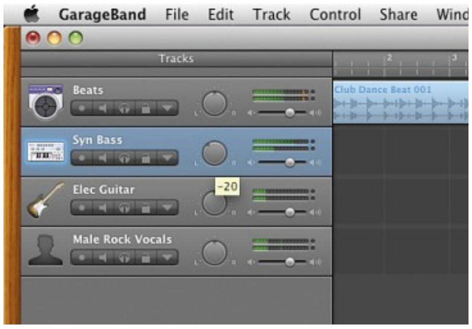

GarageBand
File
Edit
Track
Control
Share
Window
Help
Tracks
Beats
Syn Bass
Elec Guita
Male Rock Vocals
Club Dance Beat 001.2
Synthesizer Bass 08
Funky Electric Guitar 02
No Effects#02.2 (4 takes)

Solo or unsolo the track.

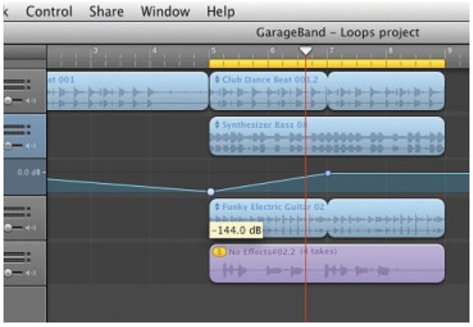
01 Each track header provides a set of controls. Under the track's name is a set of buttons. The second and third are **Mute** and **Solo**. The former mutes the track; the latter mutes all tracks that aren't soloed. This enables you to concentrate on specific tracks while mixing.


GarageBand
File
Edit
Track
Control
Share
Window
Help
Tracks
Beats
Syn Bass
Elec Guitar
Male Rock Vocals
-2.4 dB
Club Dance
Synthesizer
Funky Electr
No Effects

02 At the far right of each track header is a **Level** indicator and **Volume** slider. The former provides an indication of a track's level as it plays – avoid red warning indicators lighting up. Use the slider to adjust the volume of the track; as the slider is dragged, the dB level is shown as a tooltip.


GarageBand
File
Edit
Track
Control
Share
Wind
Tracks
Beats
Syn Bass
Elec Guitar
Male Rock Vocals
-20
Club Dance Beat 001

03 Between the buttons and levels is the **Pan** control. Click and drag up or left to rotate the dial left, and down or right to rotate it right. Panning controls where the track sits in the stereo mix. On adjusting a track's panning, you may need to tweak its volume.


Control
Share
Window
Help
GarageBand – Loops project
Club Dance Beat 001.2
Synthesizer Bass 08
Funky Electric Guitar 02
-144.0 dB
No Effects#02.2 (4 takes)
0.0 dB

04 To change the volume over time, click the widget at the far right of the button set and click the button next to **Track Volume**. You can then set control points on the automation curve. Using the **Add Automation** option, you can define automations for track effects and panning. ●

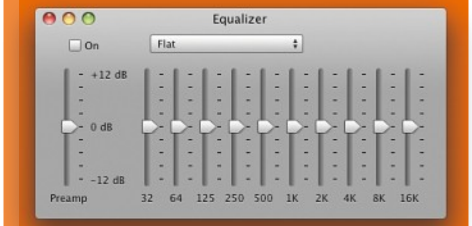
MIX SUCCESSFULLY

Environment is very important when it comes to mixing. First and foremost, don't approach mixing when you're not in the mood – you must be excited about working on the final stretch of your production and be comfortable when listening to your work.

With software such as *GarageBand*, it's tempting to make continual tweaks while mixing, but constant interruptions don't enable you to get a feel for your entire piece. Export a stereo master at some point and listen to that instead. Make notes of things that need amending and then go back to *GarageBand*, tweak the mix, export and repeat.

Don't make the mistake of only listening to your work through a pair of expensive headphones. They generally make panning more apparent and tend to boost frequencies in the upper-mid range. All other devices are 'biased' to some extent, too. Listen to your mixes on a range of devices, including through iPod headphones or in the car, and make mix judgements based on what you hear in all of those places.

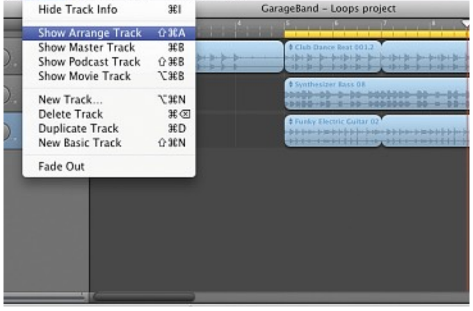
It's also imperative to avoid one of the most common mistakes during mixing: listening with customised EQ. If you have the bass on your amp turned way up, your mix will end up bass-light and will appear thin to others. Therefore, always ensure that your amps are at default settings. The same is also true of software – if you have a custom *iTunes* EQ setting, turn the Equalizer (Window > Equalizer) off before listening to mixes.


Equalizer
On
+12 dB
0 dB
-12 dB
Preamp
32
64
125
250
500
1K
2K
4K
8K
16K

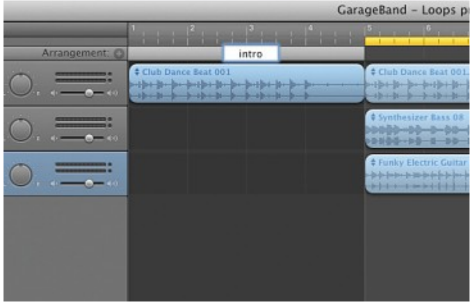
☐ On
Flat

When listening to mixes, ensure software and amp EQ levels are flat.

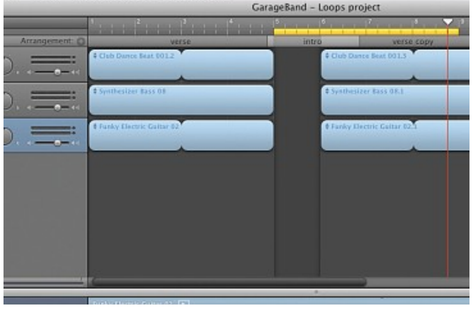
STEP BY STEP Arrange tracks in GarageBand


dit
Track
Control
Share
Window
Help
Hide Track Info ⌘I
Show Arrange Track ⇧⌘A
Show Master Track ⌘B
Show Podcast Track ⇧⌘B
Show Movie Track ⌥⌘B
New Track... ⌥⌘N
Delete Track ⌘⌫
Duplicate Track ⌘D
New Basic Track ⇧⌘N
Fade Out
GarageBand – Loops project
Club Dance Beat 001.2
Synthesizer Bass 08
Funky Electric Guitar 02

01 **Arrange Track** enables you to structure songs visually, and rapidly duplicate completed components, rather than messing about selecting audio regions across dozens of tracks. Open the completed Apple Loops example and go to Track > Show Arrange Track. The **Arrange Track** appears above the timeline.

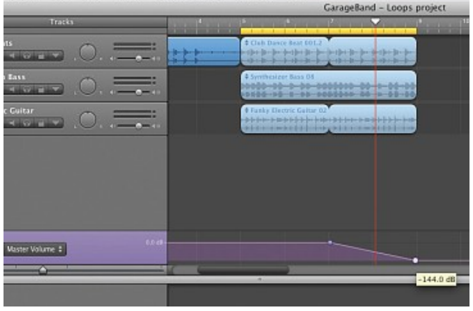

Edit
Track
Control
Share
Window
Help
GarageBand – Loops p
Arrangement:
intro
Club Dance Beat 001
Club Dance Beat 001
Synthesizer Bass 08
Funky Electric Guitar

02 Here, we'll treat the first four bars of the song as the intro and the next four as a verse. Click the **Arrange Bar**'s + button to add a new untitled arrange region. Drag the arrange region's right-hand edge leftwards until the region is four bars wide. Double-click on **untitled**. Give the arrange region the name **intro**.

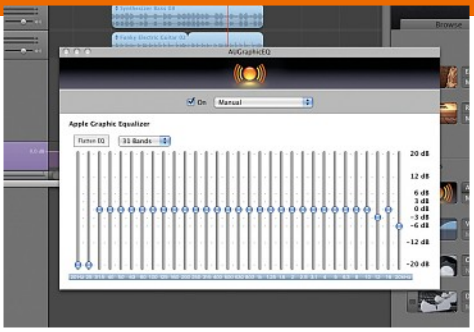

dit
Track
Control
Share
Window
Help
GarageBand – Loops project
Arrangement:
verse
intro
verse copy
Club Dance Beat 001.2
Club Dance Beat 001.3
Synthesizer Bass 08
Synthesizer Bass 08.1
Funky Electric Guitar 02
Funky Electric Guitar 02.1

03 Add another region and ensure it spans the rest of the song. Hold ⌥, drag the arrange region to the right and then let go of your mouse button. *GarageBand* should create a copy of the region's content and name the arrange region **verse copy**. To see how easy it is to rearrange a song, drag the intro between the two verses. ●

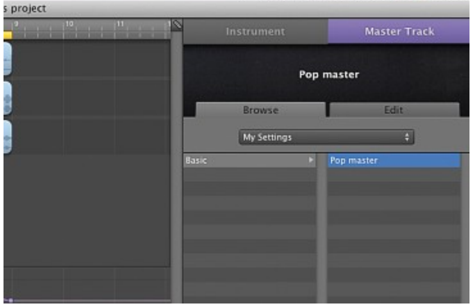
STEP BY STEP Work with the Master Track


geBand
File
Edit
Track
Control
Share
Window
Help
GarageBand – Loops project
Tracks
Bass
Guitar
Club Dance Beat 001.2
Synthesizer Bass 08
Funky Electric Guitar 02
Master Volume
-144.0 dB

01 Open up a song created in *GarageBand*. Go to Track > Show Master Track. Anything applied to the Master Track affects the entire song. Position the playhead at the **7th** measure and click on the Master Volume curve at **0 dB**. Click again at the **9th** measure, but drag the control point to the bottom. You've created a basic track fade.

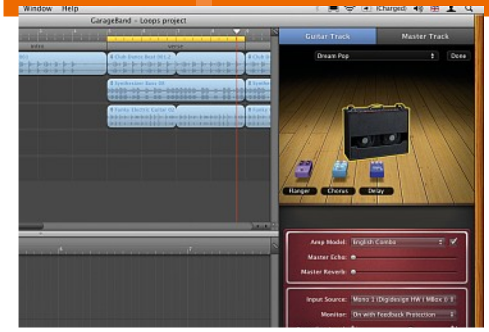

AUGraphicEQ
On
Manual
Apple Graphic Equalizer
31 Bands
20 dB
12 dB
6 dB
3 dB
0 dB
-3 dB
-6 dB
-12 dB
-20 dB
Browse

02 Be very careful when adding effects to the Master Track. Unless your instruments are identical, or your recording simple, you should avoid adding things such as reverb, or your track will turn into a muddy mess. However, sometimes adjusting its EQ can banish annoying booming bass or irritating and tinny high-end noise.

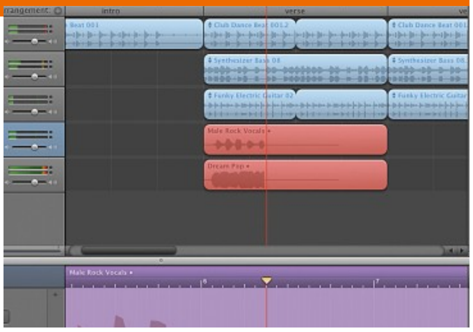

(Charged)
project
Instrument
Master Track
Pop master
Browse
Edit
My Settings
Basic
Pop master

03 If you regularly apply the same settings to Master Tracks, click the **Save Master** button and give your Master Track setting a name. To later apply the setting to a different song, click the **Browse** tab in the Master Track's **Track Info** pane, select **My Settings** from the menu, go to your saved settings and double-click. ●

STEP BY STEP Use GarageBand for multi-track recording

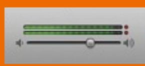

Window
Help
GarageBand – Loops project
Guitar Track
Master Track
Dream Pop
Done
Flanger
Chorus
Delay
Amp Model: English Combo
Master Echo:
Master Reverb:
Input Source:
Monitor: On with Feedback Protection

01 If you prefer recording live performances, but want more control over mixing and effects, *GarageBand* can still help. For example, connect both a guitar and a microphone to your Mac, each via their own interface inputs, and then set up a real instrument track for your vocals and a guitar track for your guitar.


rrangement:
intro
verse
Club Dance Beat 001.2
Club Dance Beat 001
Synthesizer Bass 08
Funky Electric Guitar 02
Funky Electric Guitar
Male Rock Vocals
Dream Pop
Male Rock Vocals

02 Ensure Control > Count In is checked and that recording levels are fine (test your voice and guitar and listen through headphones). Press the **Record** buttons in each track's header, and then the master **Record** button in the control bar. You'll be counted in and *GarageBand* will record your vocals and guitars to separate tracks. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



Keep an eye on the LED in the control bar. If your mix becomes loud enough to distort, the two circular red LEDs will remain on and the playhead will turn red. In such cases, you'll either need to amend the mix or work with peak limiting and compression.

EXPERT TIP

Double-click a track header's icon and the Track Info pane appears. Towards the bottom, you'll see the same icon, but with a triangular widget. Click this and you can select a new icon, enabling you to more easily differentiate the track.

OS X SURVIVAL SKILLS

Get more from Address Book

Getting your data into Address Book can often involve a little subterfuge…

PROFILE

Name: Trevor Middleton
Occupation: Mac OS X trainer
System: 24-inch iMac (2.4GHz), MacBook (2.16GHz), Power Macintosh G4 tower (1GHz, FireWire 800).

As the release of Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard) – with its emphasis on consolidation rather than innovation – approaches, many will be taking stock of just how far Mac OS X has come as a mature, integrated and useable operating system. The problem is: which criteria do you use? For those of us who are passionate advocates of Mac OS, it's the details that make all the difference, those little courtesies to the user, which mean that during the initial training session I'm not giving a Windows switcher a shopping-list of software.

Introduced in Mac OS X 10.2 as a much-needed contact manager, *Address Book*, and the information within it, now permeates much of Mac OS X. Open a new message in *Mail*, for instance (go to File > New Message or use the keyboard shortcut ⌘+[N]), and there, in the toolbar, is the *Address Book* icon. Click it, and you have access to the email addresses of all your contacts – including those that don't come up automatically in the **To** field.

One of the most overlooked features of *Address Book* is its ability to print mailing labels to those standard Avery A4 sheets you can buy in most stationery stores. However, getting the information into *Address Book* is an art in itself. For instance, one client who had switched from Windows had nearly 1000 contacts on her *Access 2007* database. She would print mailing labels from her PC using the application's dedicated Wizard, so one of the first tasks to perform was shifting all that information over onto her Mac. If you want to do this yourself, start by choosing File > Export in *Access* (or *FileMaker*) and export your tables as a comma-separated variable (.csv) file or as tab-delimited data (.tab).

> "It's when you come to import the data into Address Book that you have to keep your wits about you…"

Importing your data

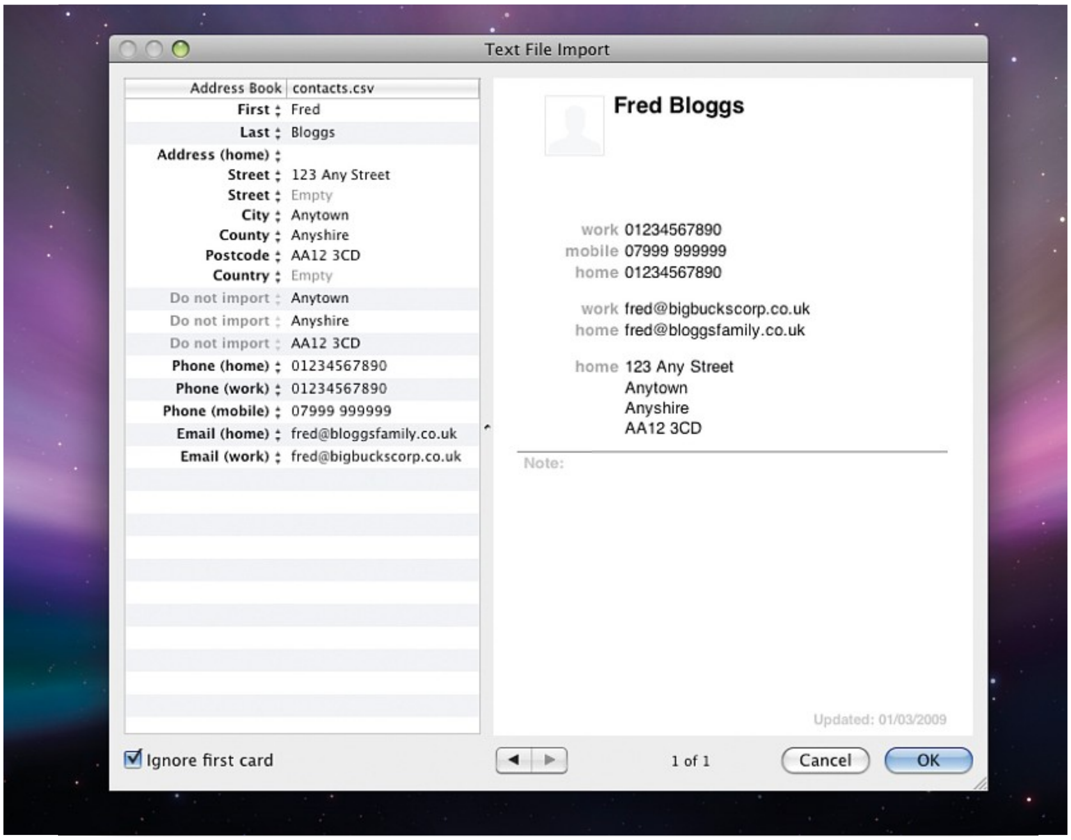
So far, so straightforward. It's when you come to import the data into *Address Book* that you have to keep your wits about you: first, in *Address Book*, go to File > Import > Text File… Next, navigate to your CSV or tab-delimited file and click **Open** to start the **Text File Import** dialog. When that opens, the left part of the dialog pane will have two columns: the right-hand one contains the data you've exported from your database, while the left column is for you to choose which *Address Book* field each piece of information will translate to. For the time being, however, it'll say 'Do not import'.

Unless your first database record is a dummy, containing only generic data headers ('First name', 'surname', and so on), you'll need to remove the tick from the box marked **Ignore first card**, otherwise you'll lose your first contact. Then, as you go, the right half of the dialog window will change, to show you what the completed card will look like.

It's a good idea to make a list of the total number of fields your *Address Book* cards should have. If you only work on one contact, you might miss essential information – mobile number, for instance – and leave that field out for all contacts. Use the arrows at the bottom of the dialog to go through your contacts, to make sure that you've got everything.

If you're happy, click **OK** and your data will be imported into *Address Book*. It's still a good idea to check a few cards – if you have messed up go to Edit > Undo Import before you start again.

Now you can sort your contacts into, say, those that have email addresses and those that don't. To create a group of all contacts that have email addresses: choose File > New Smart Group…, then **Email** from the first pop-up, and **is set** from the second. For those contacts without email, repeat this process but choose **is not set** for the email status. You can then send a group email to the former, and print labels for the latter. ●



Importing data from other applications into *Address Book* often involves using a CSV or tab-delimited file as an intermediary.

Address Book	contacts.csv
First	Fred
Last	Bloggs
Address (home)	
Street	123 Any Street
Street	Empty
City	Anytown
County	Anyshire
Postcode	AA12 3CD
Country	Empty
Do not import	Anytown
Do not import	Anyshire
Do not import	AA12 3CD
Phone (home)	01234567890
Phone (work)	01234567890
Phone (mobile)	07999 999999
Email (home)	fred@bloggsfamily.co.uk
Email (work)	fred@bigbuckscorp.co.uk

Fred Bloggs

work 01234567890
mobile 07999 999999
home 01234567890

work fred@bigbuckscorp.co.uk
home fred@bloggsfamily.co.uk

home 123 Any Street
Anytown
Anyshire
AA12 3CD

Note:

Updated: 01/03/2009

☑ Ignore first card

CREATE YOUR OWN
business, photo gallery, crafts, blog, E-shop, family, hobby, wedding, forum, CV, club, music, community, travel...
WEBSITE

3 MONTHS FREE
WEB HOSTING
✓ Free £30 Google AdWords
✓ Free £30 Microsoft® adCenter
✓ Free webmail
✓ Free webalizer stats
✓ Full DNS control
LIMITED TIME OFFER

Whatever you want to do, getting your website online is easy with 123-reg

DOMAIN NAMES
Register yours or transfer free now
FROM ONLY £2.99 PER YEAR
Over 1,5 million registered with us

HOSTING
From the UK's award winning web host
FROM ONLY £1.85 PER MONTH*
3 months FREE

INSTANTSITE
Create a professional site with no technical knowledge
FROM ONLY £1.99 PER MONTH*
3 months FREE

GET STARTED NOW!
www.123-reg.co.uk
123-reg

Use this voucher code to get an extra 5% off hosting: **macformat**

*Fees paid annually

~~To Kill a Mackingbird~~
~~The Taming of the Snow Leopard~~
~~Mac and Macability~~
~~A Clockwork Apple~~
~~Mac Beth~~
iClaudius
MacBook Pro

Don't get stuck with writer's block. Let your Mac take the strain.

Write a novel on your Mac

We show you how you can use your Mac to help you write your novel, journal or blog

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- An idea for a novel or screenplay
- Dedication
- A room of one's own

Mac FORMAT On the disc

Various programs mentioned here are on your disc.

They say everyone has a novel inside them. Which is great – who doesn't want to be a famous author and be the new Dickens or even the new Jackie Collins? And maybe it's not a novel, but a diary or a journal. Or even a blog.

But having that novel inside you and getting it onto paper are two different things. There's the sheer amount of time necessary to write tens of thousands of words, with the ever-constant enemies of procrastination and distraction there to cut your average writing-rate down to a crawl during whatever brief moments of quiet you manage to snatch in-between work and chores.

Then there's mundane practicality: that novel might be in your head, but it's probably not fully written unless you're the new Charles Dickens. As you start to write, you'll find characters you thought were important aren't, while others suddenly come alive. Also, you'll realise you need to keep track of timelines and scenes, and should Tom the halfwit surgeon's son reveal his secret on page 115 or page 230? Suddenly, structure is all-important if you're going to make it to the end, and that's even before you think about re-writes, edits and proofreading. And inspiration, that vital ingredient for any novel, suddenly dries up midway through page 16… and then you're not sure what you're going to do next.

> "Structure is important if you're going to make it to the end, and that's before you even think about edits."

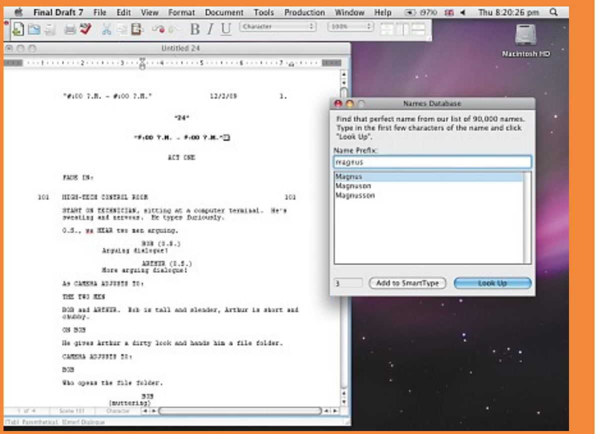
Fortunately, the Mac has been a useful companion to creative-writer types for years and there's a whole range of software available with features designed explicitly for the job of writing. In turn, helping you make that novel a reality.

Obviously, a word processor is a good place to start. Surprisingly, *TextEdit* isn't as bad a choice as might be imagined. It writes in RTF format, allows text formatting including double line-spacing, can use the built-in OS X spellchecker and grammar checker. If you want a word count – which is always something to lift the spirits when you wonder if you're getting anywhere – you can use OS X's built-in **Services** menu and Devontechnologies' free *WordService* (**www.devon-technologies.com/products/freeware/services.html**) to add that capability.

SOFTWARE | Writing a screenplay

Maybe you don't want to be the next Shakespeare, but want to be the next William Goldman instead. In which case, there are many screenwriting tools available for your Mac. The king of screenplay writing is *Final Draft* (**http://www.finaldraft.com/**), which is pretty much the gold standard tool for television-, screen- and theatre-writing that everyone in the trade uses. It has a vast range of features making it stand out from a regular word processor: its support for the script-formatting standards used in each industry; index cards for notes for scenes; a panel view for seeing how the script's scenes are structured; templates based on existing scripts; and versioned formatting, so you can not only keep multiple versions of a script, but you can also see the differences between the versions colour-coded on-screen.

But there are other tools available, and most of them are cheaper than *Final Draft*. *NovaMind* has a mind-mapping-based program called *ScriptMapping* (**www.novamind.com/screenwriting/**) while Mariner Software has two products for aspiring screenwriters: *Contour* (**www.marinersoftware.com/sitepage.php?page=138**), for creating story structures and *Montage* (**www.marinersoftware.com/sitepage.php?page=104**), for writing and formatting scripts. *Contour* has all the usual tools for creating story structures, such as a timeline and character notes, but it also has a system developed by Emmy-nominated writer Jeffrey Alan Schechter, which is supposedly capable of guiding you through the plot points of all three acts and explains 'major storytelling secrets to crafting a highly marketable movie'. Once you're finally done, *Montage*, which has many of *Final Draft*'s features, enables you write the script. It boasts a simpler user interface than *Final Draft*'s, as well as tools to create scenes, add characters to those scenes, and take notes… all without actually writing the script.



"#:00 P.M. - #:00 P.M." 12/2/08 1.

"24"

"#:00 P.M. - #:00 P.M."

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

101 HIGH-TECH CONTROL ROOM 101

START ON TECHNICIAN, sitting at a computer terminal. He's sweating and nervous. He types furiously.

O.S., we HEAR two men arguing.

BOB (O.S.)
Arguing dialogue!

ARTHUR (O.S.)
More arguing dialogue!

As CAMERA ADJUSTS TO:

THE TWO MEN

BOB and ARTHUR. Bob is tall and slender, Arthur is short and chubby.

ON BOB

He gives Arthur a dirty look and hands him a file folder.

CAMERA ADJUSTS TO:

BOB

Who opens the file folder.

BOB
(muttering)

Names Database

Find that perfect name from our list of 90,000 names. Type in the first few characters of the name and click "Look Up".

Name Prefix: magnus

Magnus
Magnuson
Magnusson

3 (Add to SmartType) (Look Up)

FinalDraft comes with script templates for shows like *24*, as well as clever tools like a names database.

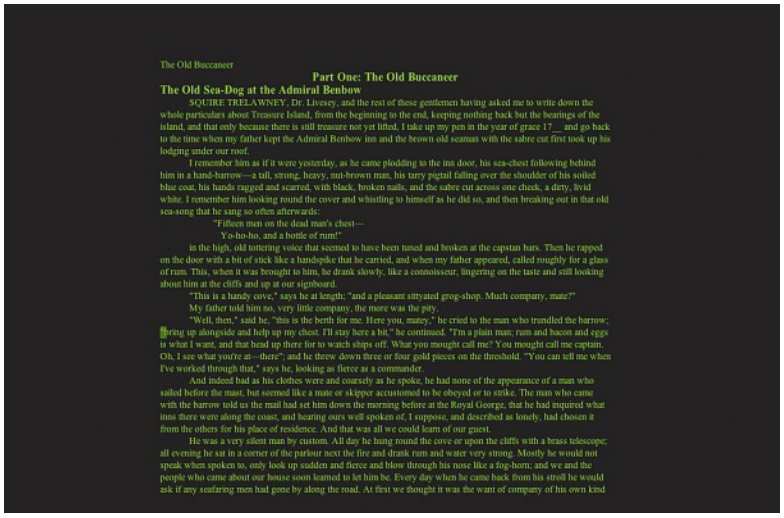
But if your needs are a little more advanced and you want things like footnotes, an index, stylesheets for structuring the document or some kind of organisational ability, you're going to have to look elsewhere. The obvious port of call for most writers is *Word 2008* (**www.microsoft.com/mac/products/Office2008/default.mspx**), the undisputed champion of word processing. If you need a particular feature in a word processor, then you can pretty much guarantee that *Word* will have it to hand.

But for many writers, that's a problem. *Word* is overkill. It has so many bells and whistles, they can be distracting, and distraction and procrastination are the enemies of productivity. Even once you've turned off your email, turned off your wireless internet connection, promised yourself you won't play any games or "just look something up", you may find your eyes roaming for exciting things to look at. You may find yourself studying the colours of all the Dock icons as you re-enable the magnify feature and swish the cursor to and fro, or wondering what the exact optimal arrangement of all the toolbar icons is as you customise them for the sixteenth time.

Keeping it simple

There is an array of word processors that are specifically designed to have fewer features than *Word* and to be less distracting, typically with an uncluttered full-screen mode.

Although not specifically designed with writers in mind, Apple's *Pages '09* (**www.apple.com/iwork**) has a full-screen mode, designed to reduce that distraction. This hides the menu bar and the Dock, and turns the screen black, leaving you with only a page number, word count and the document itself – you can also mouse over the left of the screen to get a pop-out view of all the pages in the document.



The Old Buccaneer

Part One: The Old Buccaneer

The Old Sea-Dog at the Admiral Benbow

SQUIRE TRELAWNEY, Dr. Livesey, and the rest of these gentlemen having asked me to write down the whole particulars about Treasure Island, from the beginning to the end, keeping nothing back but the bearings of the island, and that only because there is still treasure not yet lifted, I take up my pen in the year of grace 17__ and go back to the time when my father kept the Admiral Benbow inn and the brown old seaman with the sabre cut first took up his lodging under our roof.

I remember him as if it were yesterday, as he came plodding to the inn door, his sea-chest following behind him in a hand-barrow—a tall, strong, heavy, nut-brown man, his tarry pigtail falling over the shoulder of his soiled blue coat, his hands ragged and scarred, with black, broken nails, and the sabre cut across one cheek, a dirty, livid white. I remember him looking round the cover and whistling to himself as he did so, and then breaking out in that old sea-song that he sang so often afterwards:

"Fifteen men on the dead man's chest—
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"

in the high, old tottering voice that seemed to have been tuned and broken at the capstan bars. Then he rapped on the door with a bit of stick like a handspike that he carried, and when my father appeared, called roughly for a glass of rum. This, when it was brought to him, he drank slowly, like a connoisseur, lingering on the taste and still looking about him at the cliffs and up at our signboard.

"This is a handy cove," says he at length; "and a pleasant sittyated grog-shop. Much company, mate?"

My father told him no, very little company, the more was the pity.

"Well, then," said he, "this is the berth for me. Here you, matey," he cried to the man who trundled the barrow; "bring up alongside and help up my chest. I'll stay here a bit," he continued. "I'm a plain man; rum and bacon and eggs is what I want, and that head up there for to watch ships off. What you mought call me? You mought call me captain. Oh, I see what you're at—there"; and he threw down three or four gold pieces on the threshold. "You can tell me when I've worked through that," says he, looking as fierce as a commander.

And indeed bad as his clothes were and coarsely as he spoke, he had none of the appearance of a man who sailed before the mast, but seemed like a mate or skipper accustomed to be obeyed or to strike. The man who came with the barrow told us the mail had set him down the morning before at the Royal George, that he had inquired what inns there were along the coast, and hearing ours well spoken of, I suppose, and described as lonely, had chosen it from the others for his place of residence. And that was all we could learn of our guest.

He was a very silent man by custom. All day he hung round the cove or upon the cliffs with a brass telescope; all evening he sat in a corner of the parlour next the fire and drank rum and water very strong. Mostly he would not speak when spoken to, only look up sudden and fierce and blow through his nose like a fog-horn; and we and the people who came about our house soon learned to let him be. Every day when he came back from his stroll he would ask if any seafaring men had gone by along the road. At first we thought it was the want of company of his own kind

Most dedicated word processors offer a full-screen mode like this, designed to avoid distraction.

One of the pioneers of the full-screen writer's mode is Hog Bay Software's *WriteRoom* (**www.hogbaysoftware.com/products/writeroom**), which is an exceedingly basic word processor in most regards but gives you a highly customisable full-screen mode. You can view your document in different colours, even going for the old-style black-on-green VDU look if you're feeling nostalgic.

> "Backing up is important: the last thing you want is your 300-page magnum opus disappearing…"

But you can also configure more useful ▶ options: whether to include a word-, page-, line- or character-count on-screen; how far down the screen the cursor can go before the document starts to scroll; how much padding to put around the document; and how often to auto-save – because nothing annoys a writer more than seeing all those precious words go up in smoke just because *Word* is having an off-day.

Indeed, backing up is an important thing to remember: the last thing you want is your 300-page *magnum opus* disappearing into the Well of Lost Plots simply because one little sector on your hard drive got corrupted when you dropped your laptop a couple of months ago.

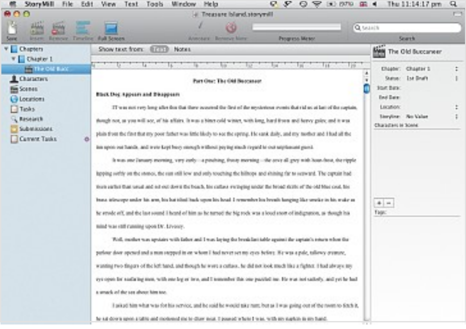
Leopard users, of course, have access to *Time Machine*, which when switched on automatically backs up all their data to an external hard drive or server. Provided, of course, they have such a thing – if they don't, a quick trip to Currys, Amazon.co.uk

QUICK TIP

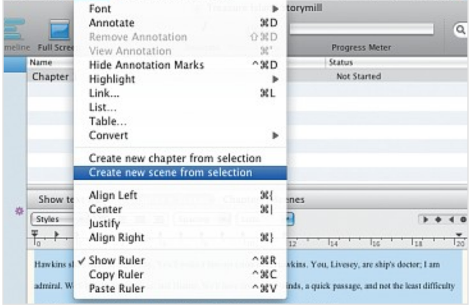
Feel inspired

Feeling bored and don't mind a little procrastination while you search for inspiration? Mariner Software's *Desktop Poet* (**http://marinersoftware.com/sitepage.php?page=74**) might help. It contains hundreds of words and lists of names that you can re-arrange on your desktop as you would with fridge magnets, giving your subconscious mind a chance to develop and explore new ideas.

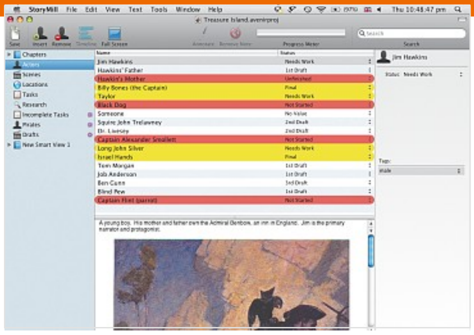
STEP BY STEP Writing your novel with StoryMill



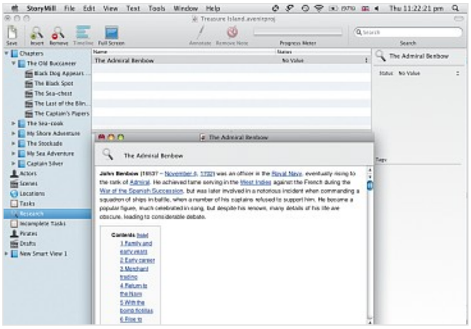
01 *StoryMill* works like any normal word processor at first, but with dedicated structuring. Start by selecting **New** or **New From Template** from the file menu to create a new novel. Then, you can start writing text in the main text window as you would normally. Create extra chapters using the **Insert** icon in the toolbar.



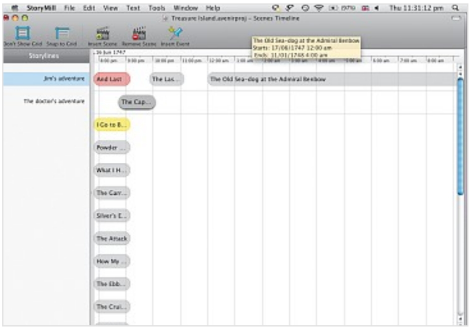
02 Break down parts of a chapter into scenes by selecting the text and then choosing **Create new scene** from selection from the **View** menu. You can then reorder scenes or move them between chapters by dragging and dropping them in the pane on the left of the screen. You can also mark when scenes start and finish using the right pane.



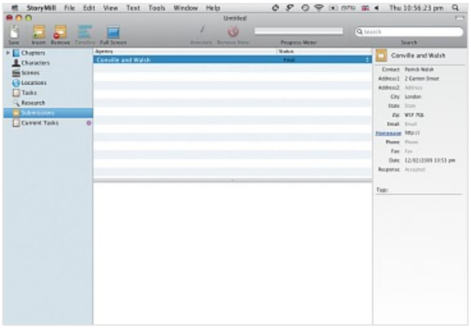
03 Create characters by selecting **Actors** in the left pane of the window and clicking **Insert** in the toolbar. Once you've created the character, add descriptions, images and other info and attach them to scenes and chapters, so that you can see at a glance who is present in each part. Similar functions are available for locations.



04 To collect your research together in one place, click **Research** in the left pane, then to add a new item, click **Insert** in the toolbar. *StoryMill* can retain hyperlinks from pasted web pages so if you need further information, you can click on the links to go online. As with all items, you can tag and attach a status to research items.



05 By clicking on **Scenes** in the left pane then clicking **Timeline** in the toolbar, you can see when scenes happen then reschedule them if necessary by dragging and dropping them. You can also create different storylines for the novel by clicking + in the bottom left-hand corner of the window and then dragging a scene to that storyline.



06 When you're ready to start mailing out manuscripts you can use the submission tracker – provided you used the New From Template > Novel (with submission tracking) option in step 1 to create your novel – to maintain a database of agents and editors and to keep track of how each recipient has responded.

TOOL SCHOOL

In *Scrivener*, you can toggle between typewriter-mode scrolling and regular scrolling using the **Typewriter** icon, found using the **Customize toolbar…** option in the **View** menu.

or another retailer is recommended, since you can get 1TB of storage for less than £90 these days, which should back up any novel as well as *iPhoto* and *iTunes* libraries and still have plenty to spare.

Backing up your work

Alternatively or even in addition, if you like a belt-and-braces approach, a MobileMe subscription (**www.apple.com/mobileme/**) and Apple's backup software are great ways to back up data online, so even if your house catches fire, your debut in the literary world will be safeguarded "in the cloud" as well.

By default, *Time Machine* is set to back up every hour, which might not suit anyone doing heavy editing. Because what often gets overlooked is the "oops, I didn't mean to delete that bit" problem: you've been writing and you decide that what you've written isn't quite right, delete it and then a few minutes, hours or days later you realise that maybe you could have kept some of it because it could be useful elsewhere. Except you can't because you only have the latest backup, not the backup you made three versions ago.

> "A plan is simply to use an old version of Word, if you have one, in combination with a backup strategy"

Fortunately, you can use *TimeMachineEditor* (**http://timesoftware.free.fr/timemachineeditor/**) to set the backup interval to a frequency of more than once an hour to ensure your peace of mind. But what *Time Machine* won't tell you is exactly which version of your document contained the text you wanted and you won't know until you've restored it. *Get Backup* does at least provide an easy way to restore all versions of a document that can then be searched with Spotlight.

However, a better plan is simply to use an old version of *Word*, if you have one, in combination with a backup strategy. Although *Word 2008* doesn't have a "versioning" feature, *Word 2004* and earlier let you store many different versions of the same document in a single .doc file; you can do this manually whenever you want to have a distinct draft of the document automatically every time you save the document. Then, if you want to recover a lost bit of text, all you need to do is get *Word* to open all the versions in separate windows and then search through all open documents for a relevant keyword or phrase to find the deleted text.

Organise your writing

What you might find as you're writing your novel is that you'll write the first chapter in one document, then the second in another, then the third in another and so on. Then you'll revise your ideas in chapter 1 and make a backup of it, and start editing it, maybe cut and paste a bit from chapter 2 into chapter 1 and so on. But rather than using a backup system, you may maintain your own manual backup system – a folder with all the versions of all the chapters you've written. Before you know it, you've got a huge collection of files, maybe containing just snippets of text that you want to keep. So some kind of project management software can come in useful once you've really got cracking.

Ulysses (**www.blue-tec.com/ulysses**) is a combination of word processor (with the near obligatory full-screen mode) and filing system with backup functions. But instead of making you bend to its particular way of doing things, it tries to be as freeform as possible, letting you devise the categories and structures you want for your writing. *CopyWrite* (**www.bartastechnologies.com/products/copywrite/**) attempts to do a similar job, but isn't quite as sophisticated as *Ulysses*. However, it will appeal to some – particularly since it's free.

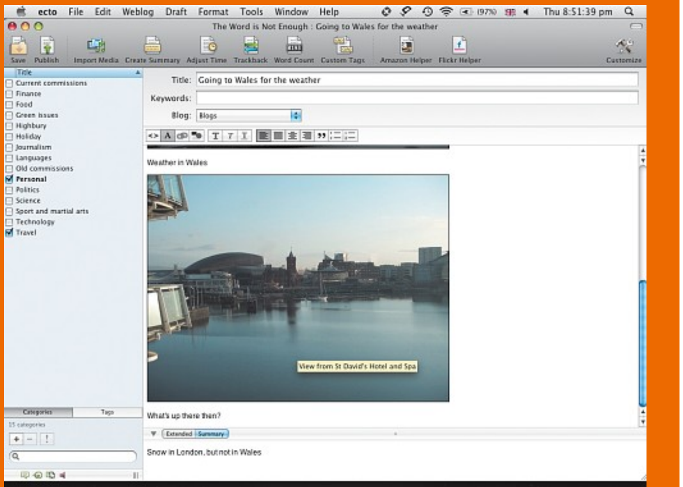
These both offer file project management, allowing you to tag and filter files, preview them, and search through them. If you want to know all the chapters where a certain character appears or gets mentioned, they will do the job for you (and usually far more quickly and precisely than Spotlight).

You can of course use this method and your chosen word processor to store information about characters in your novel and for things like timelines in other files. But database software such as Filemaker's *Bento* (**www.filemaker.com/products/bento/overview.html**) can be a help with a little bit of effort, as can *Omni Outliner* (**www.omnigroup.com/applications/omnioutliner/**) and *Tinderbox* (**www.eastgate.com/Tinderbox/**), which are efficient organisational tools for your important notes, tasks and ideas.

JOURNALING AND BLOGGING MADE EVEN EASIER

There are many pieces of software that support the features needed for writing journals or blogs. These include *Mémoires* (http://www.codingrobots.com/memoires/), *viJournal* (http://www.skoobysoft.com/vijournal/vijournal.html) and *My Journal* (http://customsolutionsofmaryland.50megs.com/myjournal.htm/) although *MacJournal* (http://www.marinersoftware.com/sitepage.php?page=85) remains the most fully featured. This has rich text page layout features, as well as advanced security.

***MacJournal* has great blogging and podcasting functions and Apple's *iWeb* (http://www.apple.com/ilife/iweb/) is ubiquitous, but the king of desktop blogging software is *ecto* (http://illuminex.com/ecto). This supports just about every blogging system and is rich in useful features, such as tags and extended entries.**


ecto File Edit Weblog Draft Format Tools Window Help
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The Word is Not Enough : Going to Wales for the weather
Save Publish Import Media Create Summary Adjust Time Trackback Word Count Custom Tags Amazon Helper Flickr Helper Customize
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Current commissions
Finance
Food
Green issues
Highbury
Holiday
Journalism
Languages
Old commissions
Personal
Politics
Science
Sport and martial arts
Technology
Travel
Categories
Tags
View from St David's Hotel and Spa
Extended
Summary

Title: Going to Wales for the weather
Keywords:
Blog: Blogs

Weather in Wales

What's up there then?

Snow in London, but not in Wales

***Ecto* gives you great tools for blogging, including picture resizing, templates and Amazon and Flickr support.**

> “StoryMill lets you set up then track, tag and filter characters, scenes, locations and even research”

Tailormade tools

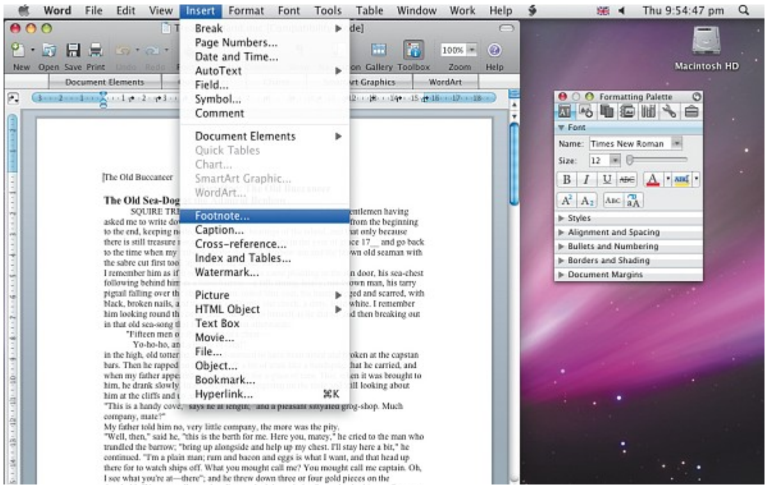
But there are more sophisticated, tailormade methods as well. If you really are dedicated to your art, then there are two programs that wil be useful for Mac-based writers: Literature and Latte's *Scrivener* (**www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.html**) and Mariner Software's *StoryMill* (**www.marinersoftware.com/sitepage.php?page=127**).

They both offer the full-screen function of *Pages* and *WriteRoom* but Scrivener has a 'corkboard' for tracking and rearranging notes, an outliner for organising documents, backup functions for keeping old versions of documents and the ability to embed a whole host of file types, including PDFs and web pages, for research.

StoryMill lets you set up then track, tag and filter characters, scenes, locations, and even research you might have done for the novel. It has a timeline, supports annotations, has a progress meter so you can see if you've been slacking off or working hard enough, and has a built-in backup function, too. Finally, it has a word-frequency tracker and cliché finder. And when your novel is finished, there's a tracker to monitor your submissions to editors and agents.

Ultimately, you will be the source of your novel and not your computer. But your Mac can help you keep track of your files, save you from disaster and make sure you stay focused. Let it help you so that the only limit is your imagination. ●

Rob Buckley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Footnote...
Caption...
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Index and Tables...
Watermark...
Picture
HTML Object
Text Box
Movie...
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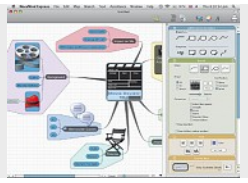
Object...
Bookmark...
Hyperlink... ⌘K
Macintosh HD
Formatting Palette
Font
Name: Times New Roman
Size: 12
Styles
Alignment and Spacing
Bullets and Numbering
Borders and Shading
Document Margins

If you want a feature in a word processor, *Word 2008* is bound to have it, but be wary of the many distractions within the program.

QUICK TIP



Mind mapping

Another great source of ideas is mind-mapping. You put one idea in the centre of the map and then create branches to other ideas from that central idea. These lead to more ideas and more ideas and so on, through a process of brainstorming. Good Mac mind-mapping apps include *FreeMind* (**http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page**), *MindManager* (**www.mindjet.com/products/mindmanager/mac/default.aspx**) and *NovaMind* (**www.novamind.com/**).

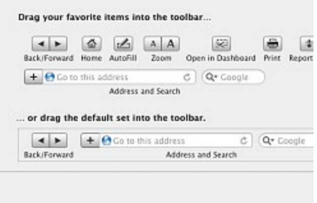
Master Safari 4.0 beta

There's a new, free version of Safari out, and it's got some exciting new features…

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

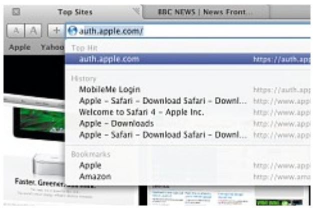
- A Mac running OS X 10.5.6 or OS X 10.4.11.
- Also for Windows XP/Vista
- **Top Sites** and **Cover Flow** on Mac OS X Tiger require a Quartz Extreme-compatible video card
- 107MB HD space

Safari remains the Mac user's browser of choice, mainly because it's included as part of the OS X installation, but that doesn't mean Apple is resting on its laurels. Version 4 of *Safari* has just been released and is free from **www.apple.com/safari/download**. It is still in beta, but so far we've found it to be stable on our test machines. **Graham Barlow**


Drag your favorite items into the toolbar...
Back/Forward
Home
AutoFill
Zoom
Open in Dashboard
Print
Report
Go to this address
Google
Address and Search
... or drag the default set into the toolbar.
Back/Forward
Go to this address
Google
Address and Search

Zoom in to pages

One of the coolest new features of *Safari 4.0* is hidden away in the toolbar customisation options. You now have the ability to zoom into any web page – both the text and the graphics increase in size when you zoom. To get this option, go to the **View** menu and select **Customise Toolbar**, then drag the zoom icon onto your toolbar. Multi-Touch is also supported for zooming using the trackpad.


Top Sites
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auth.apple.com/
Apple
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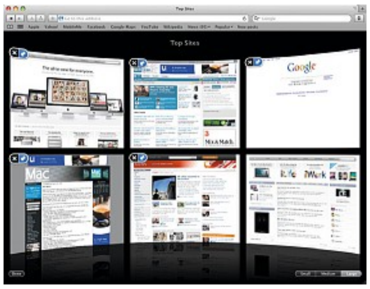
auth.apple.com
https://auth.app
History
MobileMe Login
Apple – Safari – Download Safari – Downl...
Welcome to Safari 4 – Apple Inc.
Apple – Downloads
Apple – Safari – Download Safari – Downl...
Bookmarks
Apple
Amazon
Faster. Greener.

Smart Address Field

Start typing into the **Address Bar** in the new *Safari* and you'll notice a drop-down menu appears that lists the site *Safari* thinks you're most likely looking for as a 'Top hit'. Just press the [Enter] key to go straight to that site. The drop-down menu also automatically searches your **History** and **Bookmarks** for sites that match what you've typed so far.

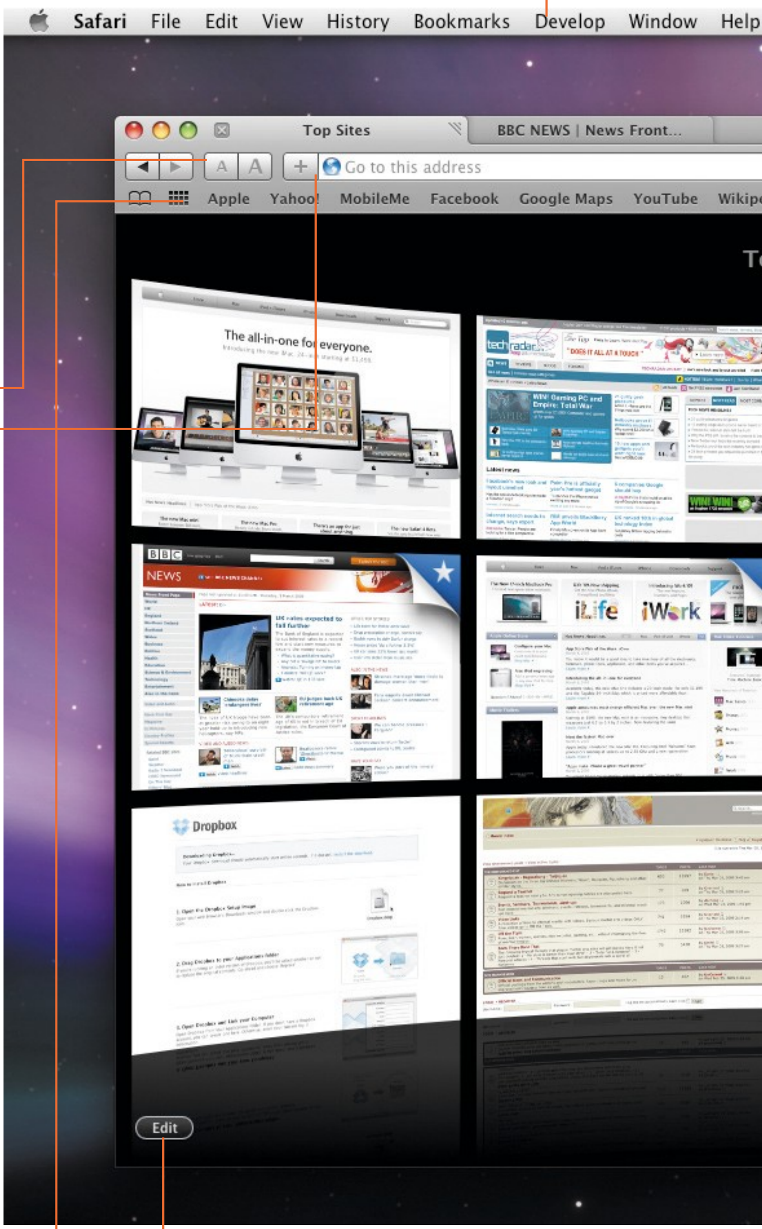
Windows look and feel

While this won't be important to many Mac users, those of you running Windows on your Macs will be interested to learn that *Safari 4.0* now has a native look in Windows. So, rather than *Safari* looking like a fish out of water when running on a PC, it now resembles other Windows-native applications.


Top Sites
Google

Top Sites

The most visually impressive new feature of *Safari 4* is **Top Sites**. *Safari* now identifies your favourite websites and displays them as a wall of previews for quick access. You can see at a glance which ones have new content thanks to a star icon that appears in the upper-right corner of the preview. Activate **Top Sites** from the toolbar with the new icon next to **Show all bookmarks**.


Safari
File
Edit
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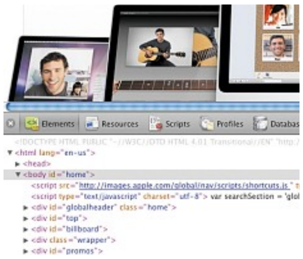
Bookmarks
Develop
Window
Help
Top Sites
BBC NEWS | News Front...
Go to this address
Apple
Yahoo!
MobileMe
Facebook
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikip
The all-in-one for everyone.
Dropbox
Edit

Edit Top Sites

Click the **Edit** button in **Top Sites** to change the number of sites displayed by selecting **Small**, **Medium** or **Large**. You can also fix the position of preview windows with the little pushpin that appears, or remove the site from your view with the **Close** icon. Here's a top tip: to add a new site to your **Top Sites**, open a new *Safari* window (⌘+[N]), go to the site, then drag its **Address Bar** icon into **Top Sites** in your previous *Safari* window.

Developer tools

If you're a website developer then you're going to love the new tools available in *Safari 4*. Turn them on in the **Advanced** section of *Safari* **Preferences**. The **Web Inspector** option is a particular highlight, giving you access to a range of tools for debugging JavaScript, viewing the structure of a page and optimising performance.


Elements
Resources
Scripts
Profiles
Databas

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  ▶ <head>
  ▼ <body id="home">
      <script src="http://images.apple.com/global/nav/scripts/shortcuts.js"
      <script type="text/javascript" charset="utf-8"> var searchSection = 'glol
    ▶ <div id="globalheader" class="home">
    ▶ <div id="top">
    ▶ <div id="billboard">
    ▶ <div class="wrapper">
    ▶ <div id="promos">
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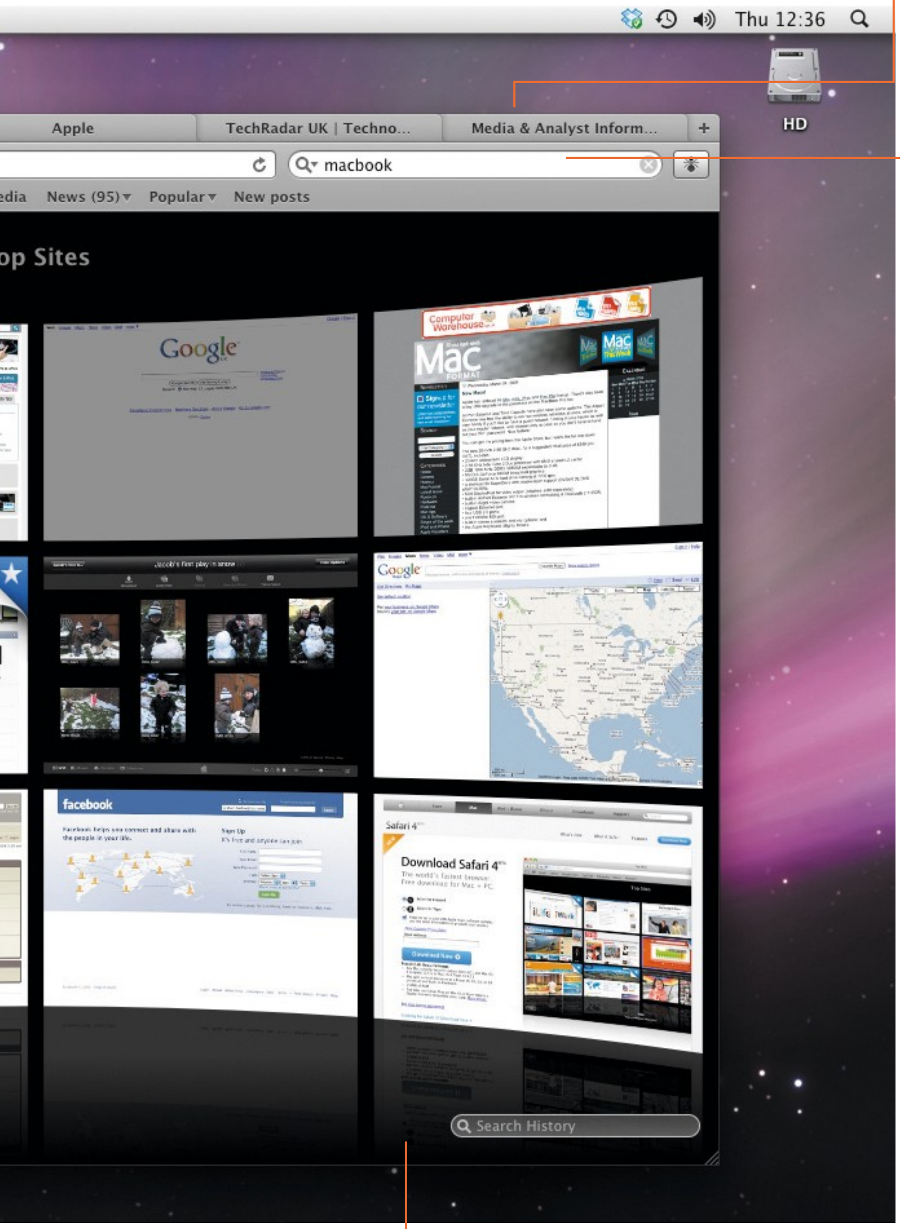
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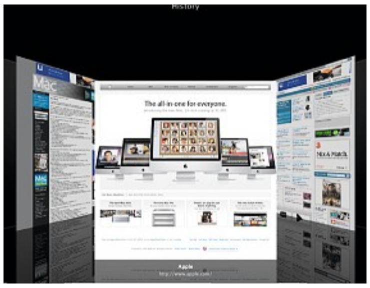
Cover Flow

Apple has implemented *Finder* and *iTunes*' **Cover Flow** view in *Safari*. It activates when you look back through your history, showing each web page you've visited, enabling you to quickly flick through your visited pages until you see the one you're looking for. In **Top Sites**, just start typing in the **Search History** field at the bottom right of the window to activate **Cover Flow** view.

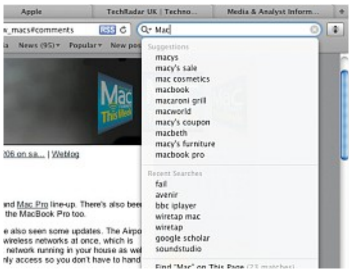


Tabs on top

It's easy to forget, but *Safari* was the first browser to enable you to move tabs around. The new *Safari 4.0* puts tabs at the top of the window, so they're easier to access. Of course, you can still move them around and drag them off to form new *Safari* windows – just drag the top-right corner of a tab to move it.

Smart Search field

The Google search field in *Safari 4.0* has been beefed up to include results from **Google Suggest**. Just start typing and you'll see suggestions appear for what you're looking for in a drop-down list. Your recent searches are also listed for ease of access.


Apple
TechRadar UK | Techno...
Media & Analyst Inform...
Mac
Suggestions
macys
macy's sale
mac cosmetics
macbook
macaroni grill
macworld
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macbeth
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macbook pro
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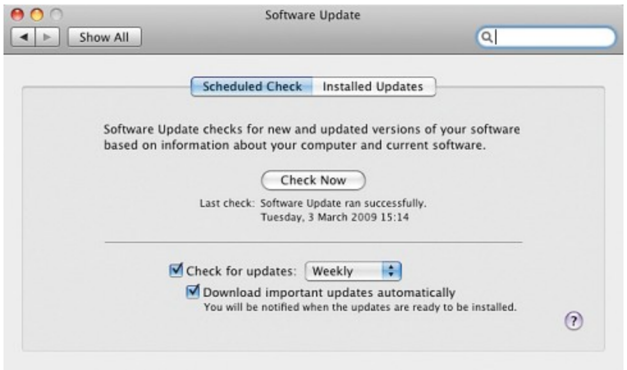
wiretap mac
wiretap
google scholar
soundstudio


Software Update
Show All
Scheduled Check
Installed Updates
Check Now

Software Update checks for new and updated versions of your software based on information about your computer and current software.

Last check: Software Update ran successfully.
Tuesday, 3 March 2009 15:14

☑ Check for updates: Weekly

☑ Download important updates automatically
You will be notified when the updates are ready to be installed.

Installation

Before you can install *Safari 4.0* you need to run the latest *Security Update 2009-001* if you haven't already done so. *Safari 4.0* will work with older OS X 10.4.11 Tiger installations, as well as newer Leopard ones. It will also work with older G3, G4 and G5 processors, as well as the modern Intel processors. The new graphical features like **Top Sites** and **Cover Flow** require a Quartz Extreme-compatible video card.

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

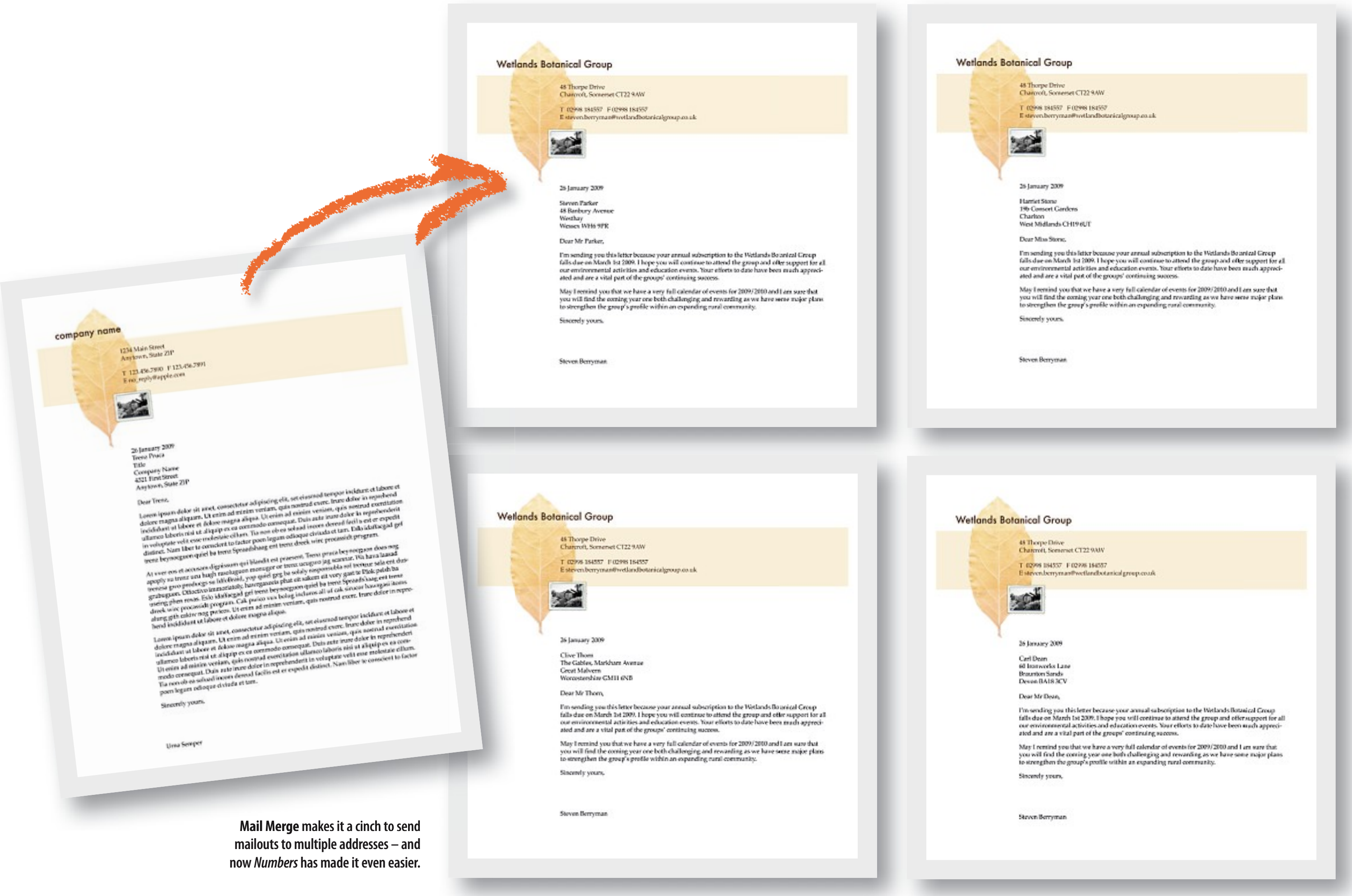
⌘+[,] – Preferences
⌘+⇧+[K] – Block Pop-Up Windows
⌘+⌥+[E] – Empty Cache
⌘+[H] – Hide *Safari*
⌘+⌥+[H] – Hide Others
⌘+[Q] – Quit *Safari*

⌘+[N] – New Window
⌘+[T] – New Tab
⌘+[O] – Open File
⌘+[L] – Open Location
⌘+⇧+[W] – Close Window
⌘+[W] – Close Tab
⌘+[S] – Save As
⌘+[I] – Mail Contents of this page
⌘+⇧+[I] – Mail link to this page
⌘+[P] – Print

⌘+⇧+[A] – AutoFill
⌘+⌥+[T] – Special Characters
⌘+⇧+[B] – Hide Bookmarks Bar
⌘+[/] – Show Status Bar
⌘+[R] – Reload Page
⌘+[+] – Zoom in
⌘+[–] – Zoom out
⌘+⇧+[1] – Show Top Sites
⌘+⇧+[H] – Home

⌘+⌥+ [B] – Show all Bookmarks
⌘+[D] – Add Bookmark

⌘+[N] – Minimize
⌘+⌥+ [L] – Downloads
⌘+⌥+ [A] – Activity



Mail Merge makes it a cinch to send mailouts to multiple addresses – and now *Numbers* has made it even easier.

Use Mail Merge in Pages '09

Automated mailouts just became easier with the ability to import data from Numbers tables

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple *iWork '09* full product (£69) or trial (free, **www.apple.com/uk/iwork**)
- A 'form' letter to send out
- A list of contact names and addresses

An essential tool for anyone running an organisation that needs to send regular letters, bulletins or reminders to its members, is **Mail Merge**. A single letter can be sent to each recipient with a 'personalised' address and greeting.

There are two components in this process. The first is a standard 'form' letter, which is sent to everyone, but instead of specific names and addresses this has merge fields that fetches this information from another file; this data source is the second component.

What you see in your document is a single form letter containing these merge fields. What happens when you print, though, is that *Pages* merges the form letter and the data to produce a separate letter for each person.

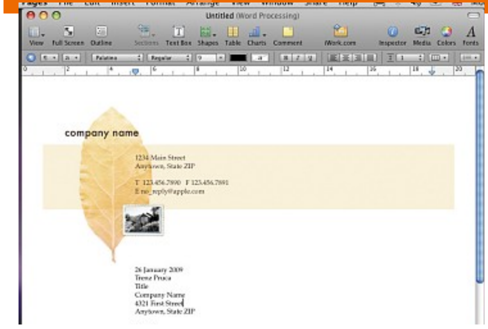
> "Pages '09 works with Address Book, but you can create a custom table in Numbers and use that instead"

Mail Merge is not new to *Pages '09*, but previously the only data file you could use was the Mac's *Address Book*. This works well enough, but it offers lots of data fields you may never use and lacks a few you'd like to add. *Pages '09* can work with *Address Book* data, too, but you can also create a custom table in *Numbers* and use that instead. If you want to experiment with different types of merge data or just simplify the whole process, this is a big step forward.

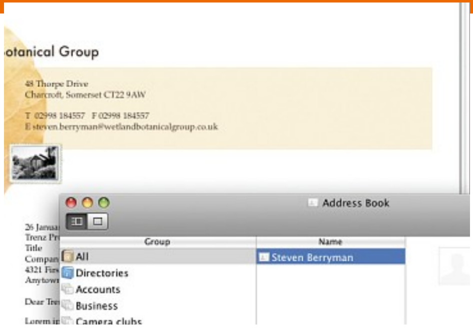
The principles of **Mail Merge** are the same whichever data source you use, so our walkthrough demonstrates how to use both. It's based around one of *Pages'* existing letter templates, but it's also possible to start with a blank document and insert merge fields manually.

Rod Lawton

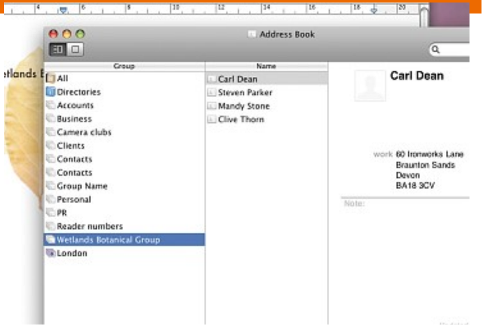
STEP BY STEP Mail merge using your Mac's Address Book or a custom table in Numbers



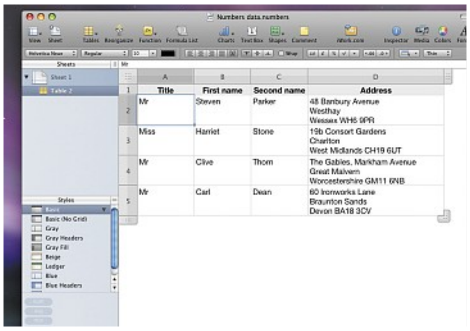
01 This is the **Woodland** template from the **Letters** section in *Pages'* word processing templates. It already includes merge fields linked to the Mac's *Address Book*. This is as good a starting point as any, although the template will need some modification for our purposes. The alternative is to start from a blank document.



02 Actually, *Pages* supports two types of field. As well as the regular merge fields (who the letter is sent to), you can have sender fields (who it's from), The header section (inside the orange box) consists of sender fields. You can drag across any card from *Address Book* to fill these fields, which turn grey when you drag the card onto them.

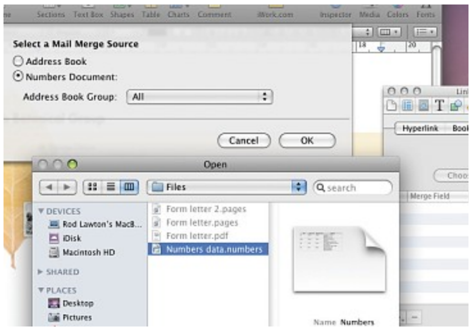


03 Now assuming you want to use *Address Book* as your data source, you'll need to set up a **Group** specifically for the intended recipients. That's exactly what we've done here with a new Wetlands Botanical Group. Existing contacts can be dragged into this group or you can create them in situ with the group selected.



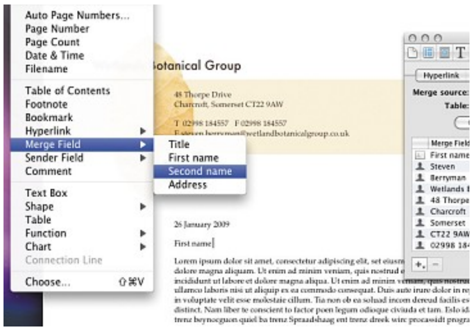
Title	First name	Second name	Address
Mr	Steven	Parker	48 Banbury Avenue Westhay Wessex WH6 9PR
Miss	Harriet	Stone	19b Consort Gardens Charlton West Midlands CH19 6UT
Mr	Clive	Thorn	The Gables, Markham Avenue Great Malvern Worcestershire GM11 6NB
Mr	Carl	Dean	60 Ironworks Lane Braunton Sands Devon BA18 3CV

04 Alternatively – and this is what's new in *Pages '09* – you can create a list of people in *Numbers*. *Address Book* is packed with redundant fields, but here we can set up just those we want. What's more, we can put all the address information in one cell so that we're not messing around with **Street**, **City**, **State** and **Zip** fields.

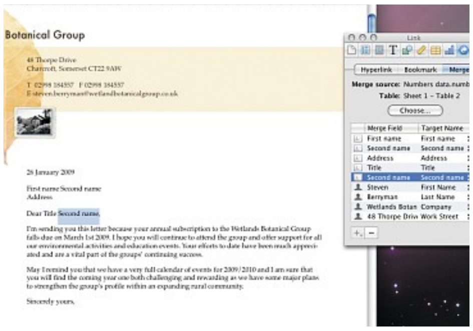


Select a Mail Merge Source
○ Address Book
● Numbers Document:
Address Book Group: All

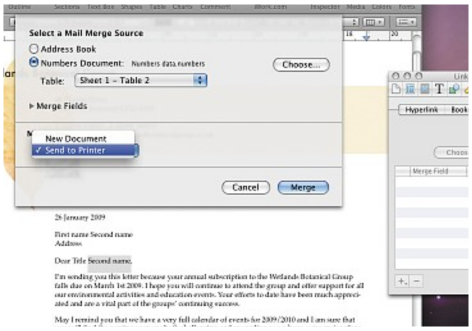
05 In this instance, we're going to use the *Numbers* data, so the first thing to do is delete all the unwanted merge fields in the original template. The new data source can now be chosen using the **Choose** button in the **Merge** section of the **Link inspector** – select **Numbers Document** as the source, then locate the document.



06 Back in the document, place an insertion point where you want the first merge field to go and choose Insert > Merge Field. The sub-menu should list all fields in your data source – in this case, the four column headings in our *Numbers* table. We've inserted **First name** (followed by a space) and now we're inserting **Second name**.



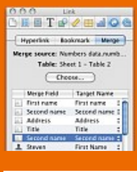
07 It only takes a few moments to finish the job. The letter is addressed to each recipient using their first and second name followed by their address, and then it begins with **Dear** and then their **Title** followed by a space and then their **Second name**. If you plan your data carefully, it's possible to personalise letters in any number of ways.



Select a Mail Merge Source
○ Address Book
● Numbers Document: Numbers data.numbers
Table: Sheet 1 – Table 2
Send to Printer

08 You can't just print your letter in the normal way because you'll simply get a single copy containing the field names. What you need to do is use the Edit > Mail Merge command, then choose the output you want (**Send to Printer**). Your printer will now produce a copy of the letter for each of the recipients in your data source. ●

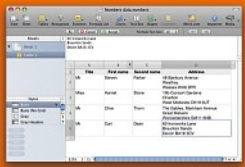
TOOL SCHOOL



The **Merge** panel in the **Link Inspector** lists every merge field inserted into your document. **Sender fields** are indicated by the head and shoulders icon.

EXPERT TIP

You can create line breaks in *Numbers* cells with ⌥+[Enter] or by using the button on the toolbar. Note that the formula entry area (top) can be expanded.



Get started with Twitter

With the likes of Stephen Fry and Jonathan Ross using Twitter, it's time join the Twittersphere!

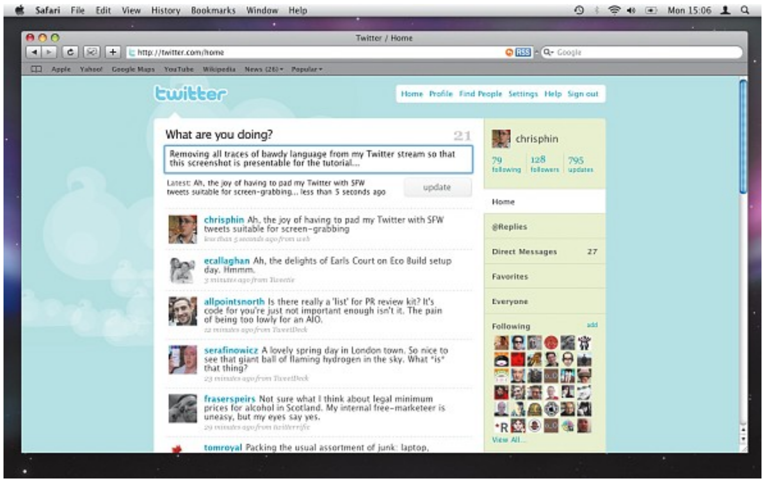
WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A Twitter account (free, **www.twitter.com**)
- *TweetDeck* (free, **www.tweetdeck.com**)

Before we look at the amazingly brilliant Twitter, you may be wondering what it actually is (which is always a good place to start). This is – naturally – the first question people ask when they hear about Twitter, but the interesting thing is the number of differing responses you'll get. Describing Twitter isn't easy.

According to Wikipedia, Twitter is a 'social networking and micro-blogging service that allows its users to send and read other users' updates'. Doesn't sound anything special, does it? The problem is, for the growing number of people now being exposed to Twitter via mainstream media and high-profile celebrity endorsement, we need to provide some context, and the best way to do that is by referencing a social network that hundreds of millions of people currently use: Facebook.

Twitter posts (tweets) are essentially like Facebook status updates that anyone can read (you post them on Twitter, and they're available to all). Limited to just 140 characters, you tell the world what you're doing, and other users can then reply to you, follow you (which means they'll see all your updates going forward), or send direct messages to you (these are not public, and require both users to be following each other). You'll be able to see the people that decide to follow you, and if you know them or are interested in what they have to say, you can follow them back. And once you've built up your Twitter network it becomes a great way of conversing with like-minded people, finding out what's going on online, gaining feedback, promoting yourself or a product and much more besides.



Twitter / Home

http://twitter.com/home

What are you doing? 21

Removing all traces of bawdy language from my Twitter stream so that this screenshot is presentable for the tutorial...

Latest: Ah, the joy of having to pad my Twitter with SFW tweets suitable for screen-grabbing... less than 5 seconds ago

chrisphin Ah, the joy of having to pad my Twitter with SFW tweets suitable for screen-grabbing

ecallaghan Ah, the delights of Earls Court on Eco Build setup day. Hmmm.

allpointsnorth Is there really a 'list' for PR review kit? It's code for you're just not important enough isn't it. The pain of being too lowly for an AIO.

serafinowicz A lovely spring day in London town. So nice to see that giant ball of flaming hydrogen in the sky. What *is* that thing?

fraserspeirs Not sure what I think about legal minimum prices for alcohol in Scotland. My internal free-marketeer is uneasy, but my eyes say yes.

tomroyal Packing the usual assortment of junk: laptop,

chrisphin: 79 following, 128 followers, 795 updates

Direct Messages 27

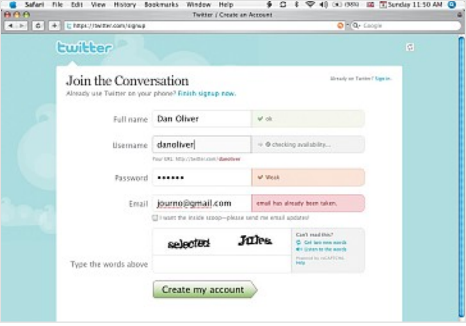
Let friends know what you're doing and follow other users. Twitter has several famous users including Stephen Fry and Barack Obama.

> "Tell the world what you're doing then other users can reply to you, follow you or send direct messages"

A large part of Twitter's success has been down to the number of third-party sites and applications that enable you to use Twitter in different ways, and in this tutorial – as well as getting you started – we'll also introduce you to *TweetDeck*, one of the most popular Desktop clients for using Twitter. Let's begin! (If you have any questions, just go to **www.twitter.com/danoliver** and send a direct message.)

Dan Oliver

STEP BY STEP Use Twitter to update and follow friends



Twitter / Create an Account

https://twitter.com/signup

Join the Conversation

Already use Twitter on your phone? Finish signup now.

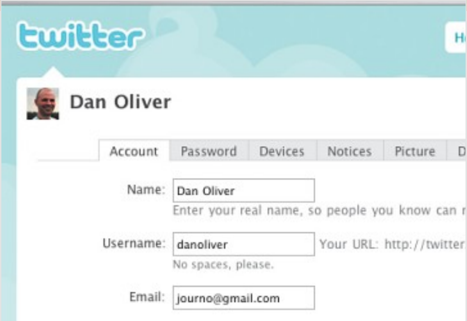
Full name: Dan Oliver ✓ ok

Username: danoliver – checking availability...

Password: •••••• ✓ Weak

Email: journo@gmail.com – email has already been taken.

01 Visit **www.twitter.com** and hit **Join**. You'll need to provide some details and choose a username (this username is how you'll be seen on Twitter and will also make up your dedicated URL). On the next screen you can check webmail accounts to see if contacts are using Twitter (Gmail, Yahoo!, AOL, Hotmail and MSN are supported).



Dan Oliver

Name: Dan Oliver

Enter your real name, so people you know can r

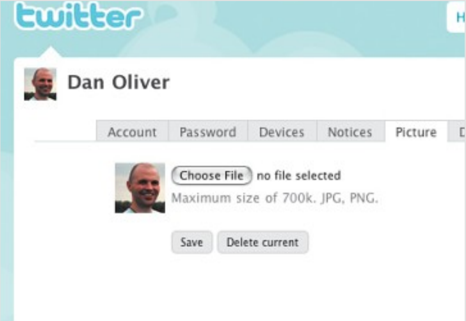
Username: danoliver

Your URL: http://twitter

No spaces, please.

Email: journo@gmail.com

02 Hopefully you've found a few people to follow, but don't worry if you haven't (we'll show you how to add more later). Now you need to add some more info. Select the **Settings** link at the top of the page and fill in the details in the **Account** tab (the most important are **Time Zone**, **Bio** and **URL**). Again, anyone can see these details.



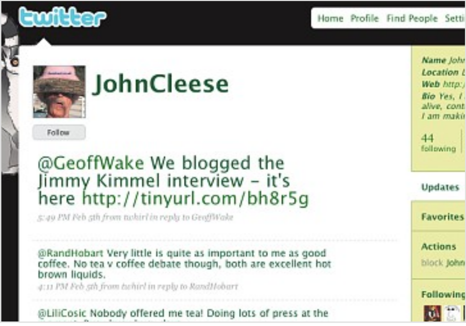
Dan Oliver

Choose File no file selected

Maximum size of 700k. JPG, PNG.

03 Next you need to upload a picture (it doesn't have to be one of you, but it is encouraged). Icons are pretty small, so a close crop is best. Also, ensure your image is square and no more than 700k. Once you've prepared an image, select the **Picture** tab, find the picture on your Mac (hit **Choose** file) and then select **Save**.

STEP BY STEP Use Twitter to update and follow friends… continued


twitter
Home Profile Find People
Follow
Updates
Favorites
Actions
Following

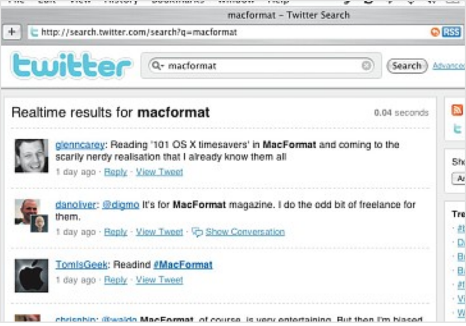
JohnCleese

@GeoffWake We blogged the Jimmy Kimmel interview – it's here http://tinyurl.com/bh8r5g

@RandHobart Very little is quite as important to me as good coffee. No tea v coffee debate though, both are excellent hot brown liquids.

@LiliCosic Nobody offered me tea! Doing lots of press at the

04 You can find a host of celebrities at **http://mashable.com/2008/10/20/25-celebrity-twitter-users** (check the comments, as more are added on a regular basis). When you reach someone's Twitter page, just hit the **Follow** button under their image. Also, once you're following someone you can see their friends as well.


macformat – Twitter Search
http://search.twitter.com/search?q=macformat
twitter
macformat
Search
Advanced

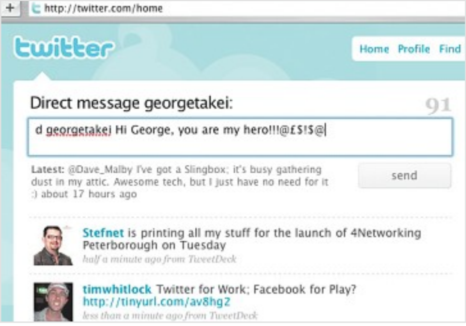
Realtime results for **macformat** 0.04 seconds

glenncarey: Reading '101 OS X timesavers' in **MacFormat** and coming to the scarily nerdy realisation that I already know them all
1 day ago · Reply · View Tweet

danoliver: @digmo It's for **MacFormat** magazine. I do the odd bit of freelance for them.
1 day ago · Reply · View Tweet · Show Conversation

TomlsGeek: Reading #MacFormat
1 day ago · Reply · View Tweet

05 To find people with a similar interest, use **http://search.twitter.com**. And if you have a search term that you'd like to keep tabs on, you can create an RSS feed of the search (**MacFormat**, for example). Once you've entered a search, select the **Feed for this query** link at the top-right. You'll now see every post that features **MacFormat**!


http://twitter.com/home
twitter
Home Profile Find
send

Direct message georgetakei: 91

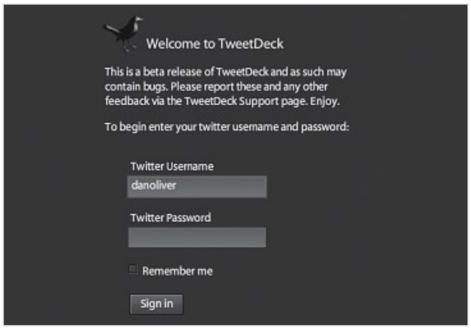
d georgetakei Hi George, you are my hero!!!@£$!$@

Latest: @Dave_Malby I've got a Slingbox; it's busy gathering dust in my attic. Awesome tech, but I just have no need for it :) about 17 hours ago

Stefnet is printing all my stuff for the launch of 4Networking Peterborough on Tuesday
half a minute ago from TweetDeck

timwhitlock Twitter for Work; Facebook for Play? http://tinyurl.com/av8hg2
less than a minute ago from TweetDeck

06 To reply to a tweet, either hover over a posting in your feed and hit the **Reply** icon (a little arrow to the far-right of the post), or place an @ symbol before the recipient's name (such as @stephenfry) and follow that with your message. To send a (private) direct message, type **d** followed by a space, the user's name and then your message.



Welcome to TweetDeck

This is a beta release of TweetDeck and as such may contain bugs. Please report these and any other feedback via the TweetDeck Support page. Enjoy.

To begin enter your twitter username and password:

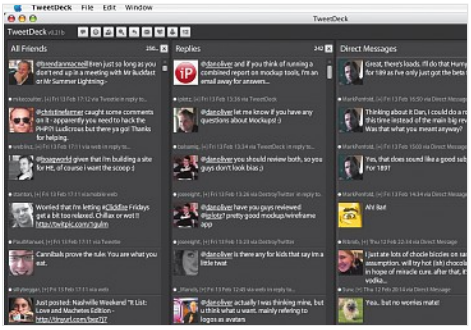
Twitter Username: danoliver

Twitter Password:

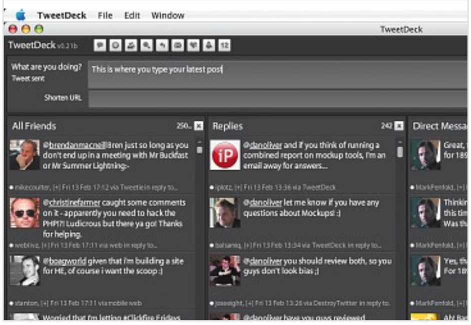
☐ Remember me

Sign in

07 Now you have the basics to use the Twitter site, we're going to introduce *TweetDeck* – a third-party app that provides a host of new features. Go to **www.tweetdeck.com**, scroll to **Install Now** and follow the instructions. When you start *TweetDeck* for the first time you will be asked for your Twitter details (there's a **Remember me** option).

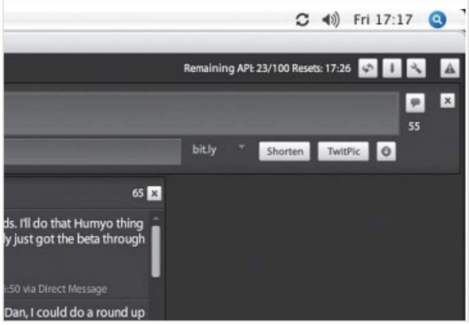

TweetDeck File Edit Window
TweetDeck
All Friends
Replies
Direct Messages

08 When you first open *TweetDeck* you may feel intimidated by the amount of information in front of you, but don't. The first column displays tweets from everyone you follow, the second column lists public (@) replies to you, and the third shows direct messages. At the top of the UI are a series of tabs; select the first one on the left.


TweetDeck File Edit Window
TweetDeck
What are you doing?
Tweet sent
Shorten URL
All Friends
Replies
Direct Messa

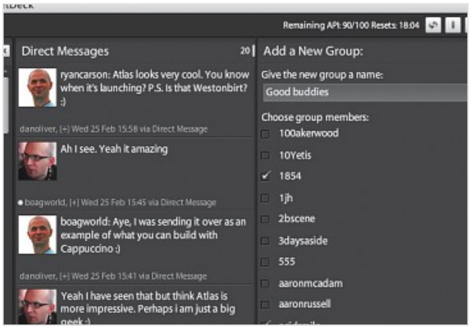
This is where you type your latest post

09 You now have your Tweet input area open. Just type in the main section to post. As new messages show up in *TweetDeck*, you can hover over a member's avatar and – by selecting one of the icons – reply, direct message, retweet (republish a tweet to your followers) or 'Favorite' a tweet. (Access favourites by selecting the heart icon.)


Fri 17:17
Remaining API: 23/100 Resets: 17:26
55
bit.ly
Shorten
TwitPic
65

ds. I'll do that Humyo thing
y just got the beta through
:50 via Direct Message
Dan, I could do a round up

10 Under the main input area is the **Shorten URL** field. Add a URL, click **Shorten** (to the right of the field) and *TweetDeck* will make it much smaller, thus taking up fewer characters. To the right of the **Shorten** tab is the **TwitPic** option, which enables you to upload pictures and generate a link to them in your tweet.


Remaining API: 90/100 Resets: 18:04
Direct Messages 20
Add a New Group:

ryancarson: Atlas looks very cool. You know when it's launching? P.S. Is that Westonbirt? :)

danoliver, [+] Wed 25 Feb 15:58 via Direct Message

Ah I see. Yeah it amazing

boagworld, [+] Wed 25 Feb 15:45 via Direct Message

boagworld: Aye, I was sending it over as an example of what you can build with Cappuccino :)

danoliver, [+] Wed 25 Feb 15:41 via Direct Message

Yeah I have seen that but think Atlas is more impressive. Perhaps i am just a big geek :)

Give the new group a name: Good buddies

Choose group members:
☐ 100akerwood
☐ 10Yetis
☑ 1854
☐ 1jh
☐ 2bscene
☐ 3daysaside
☐ 555
☐ aaronmcadam
☐ aaronrussell

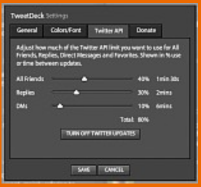
11 To filter information within Twitter (maybe you have a few friends you'd like to separate off into a dedicated group), select the **Group** tab at the top of the interface, give the group a name, and then check the people you want to include in the group. Don't forget to check out *TweetDeck*'s other cool features, such as **Search** and **Twitscoop**. ●

TOOL SCHOOL

You can access *TweetDeck*'s settings by selecting the spanner at the top-right of the UI. Here you can change appearance, toggle notification alerts, and modify the API settings (see below).

EXPERT TIP

TweetDeck can only make 100 'calls' to Twitter each hour. In the Twitter API section within Settings you can set when *TweetDeck* checks for new info (keep the overall figure at around 75%).


TweetDeck Settings
General
Colors/Font
Twitter API
Donate
All Friends
Replies
DMs
Total: 80%
TURN OFF TWITTER UPDATES
SAVE
CANCEL

Stream videos over the net

Use Roxio Toast to give you access to your videos on the move with an iPhone or iPod touch

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Roxio *Toast 10* (£80, **www.roxio.co.uk**)
- Some *QuickTime*-compatible videos
- An internet connection
- Apple iPhone/iPod touch (optional)

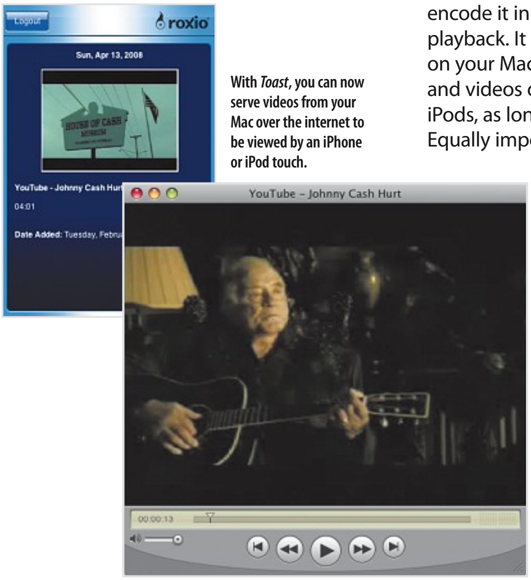
There are two things most people who own an iPhone or an iPod touch come to realise: first, it's fantastic to access the internet almost everywhere; and second, videos take up a lot of space so there's never quite enough room for everything you want.

Fortunately, the latest edition of the disc creation and burning application Roxio *Toast* has an easy solution, which uses that first great feature to fix that second not-so-great feature of the iPhone/iPod. It also has a new function for capturing *Flash* videos on websites for use in your projects, new themes for your discs, AVCHD archiving, CD audiobook to iPod audiobook conversion and other improvements. And there's also a new app called *Streamer* included.

Streamer enables you to take any movie file playable by *QuickTime* or readable by *Toast* – including any TV recordings you've made with *EyeTV* – and encode it in a format suitable for internet playback. It will then run a media server on your Mac that will serve web pages and videos optimised for iPhones and iPods, as long as your Mac is switched on. Equally importantly, it will give you an easy URL to remember and use when accessing your Mac. And if you plan on leaving your Mac encoding while you're on your travels, you can set *Streamer* to email you when it's finished.

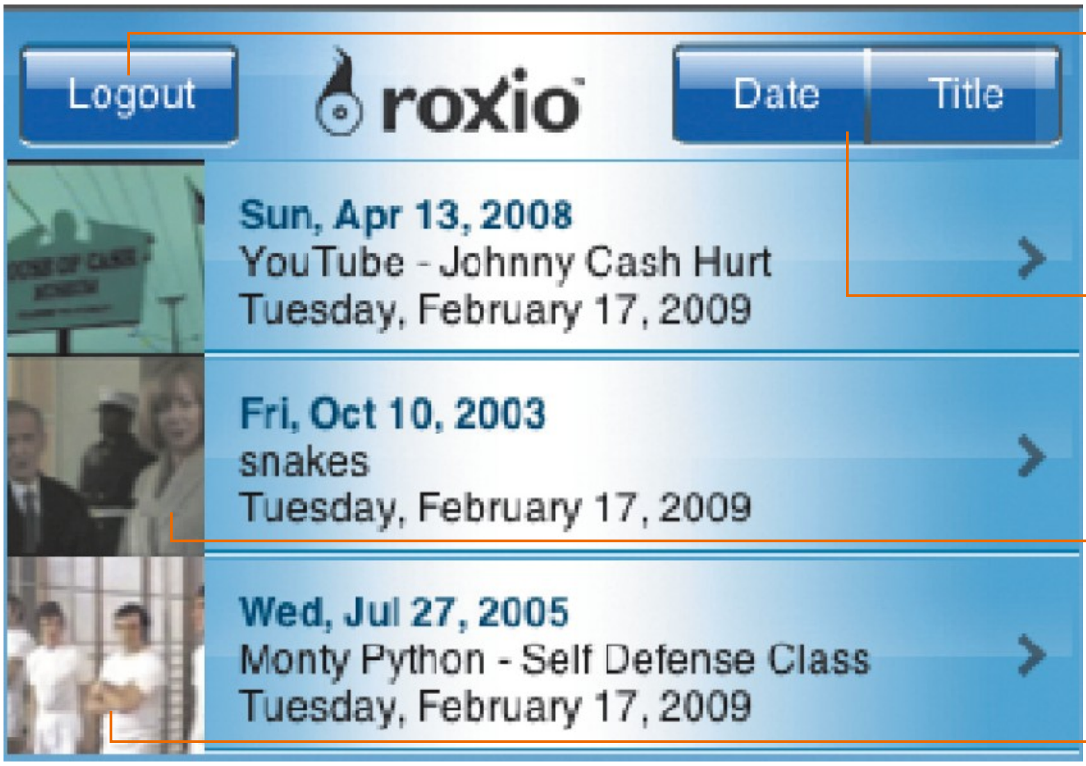
In this tutorial, we're going to show you how to add videos to *Streamer* and manage them, how to set up *Streamer* to always give you access to your videos and how to get that simple URL to view them when you're on the move.

Rob Buckley


Logout
roxio
Sun, Apr 13, 2008
YouTube - Johnny Cash Hur
04:01
Date Added: Tuesday, Febru
YouTube – Johnny Cash Hurt
00:00:13

With *Toast*, you can now serve videos from your Mac over the internet to be viewed by an iPhone or iPod touch.

TOP FEATURES | The Roxio internet player



Sun, Apr 13, 2008
YouTube - Johnny Cash Hurt
Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Fri, Oct 10, 2003
snakes
Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Wed, Jul 27, 2005
Monty Python - Self Defense Class
Tuesday, February 17, 2009

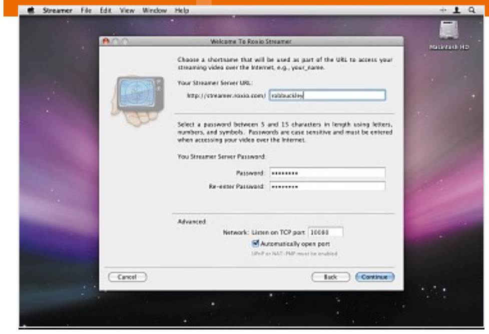
Logout button
For the security-conscious or for those with young children, all your videos are password protected so only you can view them.

Date/Title buttons
Keep tabs on your films by cataloguing them. You can sort your videos by the date they were added to *Toast* or by their title.

Any video
Each video has information by it and a thumbnail to tell you what you can watch. Click on the video to go to a page where you can watch it.

Whole thing
Toast will serve up a web page of your videos that's easily accessible and especially formatted for iPhones and iPod touches.

STEP BY STEP Encode and watch your videos with Streamer


Streamer File Edit View Window Help
Welcome To Roxio Streamer
Macintosh HD
Cancel
Back
Continue

Choose a shortname that will be used as part of the URL to access your streaming video over the Internet, e.g., your_name.

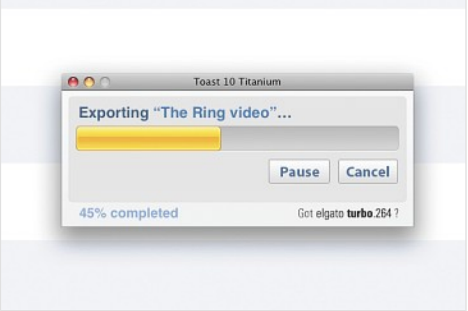
Your Streamer Server URL:
http://streamer.roxio.com/ robbuckley

Select a password between 5 and 15 characters in length using letters, numbers, and symbols. Passwords are case sensitive and must be entered when accessing your video over the Internet.

You Streamer Server Password:
Password: ••••••••
Re-enter Password: ••••••••

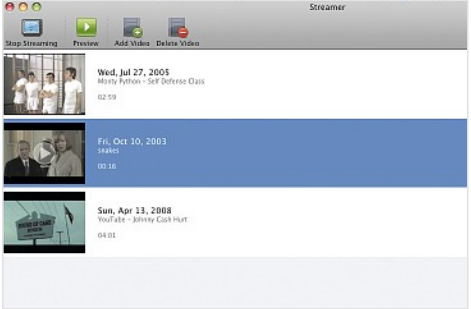
Advanced
Network: Listen on TCP port 10080
☑ Automatically open port
UPnP or NAT-PMP must be enabled

01 *Streamer* allows you to encode any *QuickTime*-compatible video on your Mac and then stream it over the internet to a remote computer or your iPod touch or iPhone. When you launch it for the first time, you'll need to pick a unique username and a password to make it easy to access your videos over the internet.


Toast 10 Titanium
Pause
Cancel
Got elgato turbo.264 ?

Exporting "The Ring video"…
45% completed

02 If your username is acceptable, you'll now be able to add videos to *Streamer*, either by dragging them and dropping them on *Streamer*'s window or by clicking **Add** in the toolbar and then locating them on your Mac. *Streamer* will then launch *Toast* to encode your videos in a format optimised for streaming over the internet.

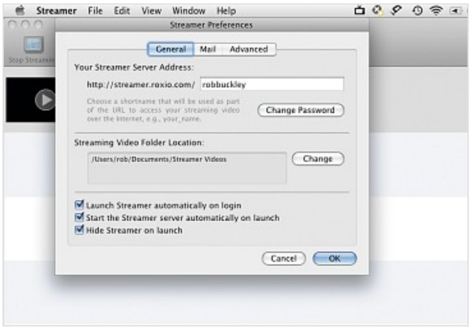

Streamer File Edit View Window Help
Streamer
Stop Streaming
Preview
Add Video
Delete Video

Wed, Jul 27, 2005
Monty Python - Self Defense Class
02:59

Fri, Oct 10, 2003
snakes
00:16

Sun, Apr 13, 2008
YouTube - Johnny Cash Hurt
04:01

03 Once the videos have been encoded, they'll appear in the list of available videos in the *Streamer* window. Click on **Start Streaming** on the left of the toolbar to let others view the videos. To check the videos play okay, click on **Preview** in the toolbar or on the arrow on the video; you can delete videos with the **Delete Video** button.

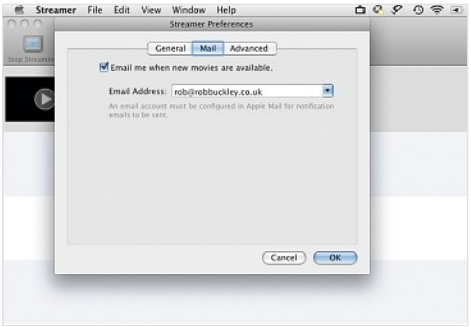

Streamer File Edit View Window Help
Streamer Preferences
Stop Streaming
General
Mail
Advanced
Change Password
Change
Cancel
OK

Your Streamer Server Address:
http://streamer.roxio.com/ robbuckley
Choose a shortname that will be used as part of the URL to access your streaming video over the Internet, e.g., your_name.

Streaming Video Folder Location:
/Users/rob/Documents/Streamer Videos

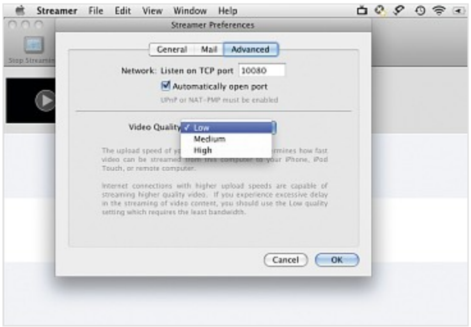
☑ Launch Streamer automatically on login
☑ Start the Streamer server automatically on launch
☑ Hide Streamer on launch

04 The *Streamer* preferences, available from the **Streamer** menu, let you configure some of *Streamer*'s other options. As well as being able to change your short/username and password, you can also reconfigure where the encoded videos should be stored. If you always want others to see your videos, set *Streamer* server to launch on login.


Streamer File Edit View Window Help
Streamer Preferences
Stop Streaming
General
Mail
Advanced
Cancel
OK

☑ Email me when new movies are available.
Email Address: rob@robbuckley.co.uk
An email account must be configured in Apple Mail for notification emails to be sent.

05 The **General** preferences also allow you to launch *Streamer* at login and have it hidden. The **Mail** preferences allow you to leave your Mac running at home, encoding videos. Every time *Toast* has finished encoding a new video, *Streamer* will send you an email (to the address you specify) to let you know the video's ready.


Streamer File Edit View Window Help
Streamer Preferences
Stop Streaming
General
Mail
Advanced
Cancel
OK

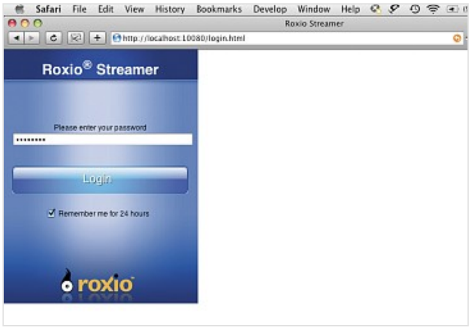
Network: Listen on TCP port 10080
☑ Automatically open port
UPnP or NAT-PMP must be enabled

Video Quality ✓ Low
Medium
High

The upload speed of y… …rmines how fast video can be streamed from this computer to your iPhone, iPod Touch, or remote computer.

Internet connections with higher upload speeds are capable of streaming higher quality video. If you experience excessive delay in the streaming of video content, you should use the Low quality setting which requires the least bandwidth.

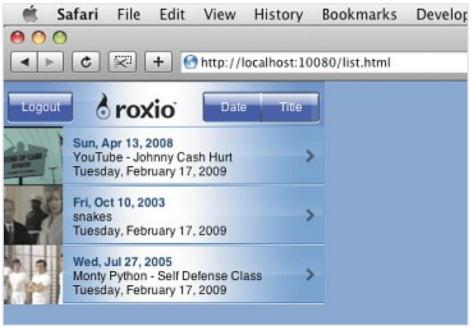
06 The **Advanced** preferences let you specify which port to use for *Streamer*, in case it conflicts with your firewall or another service. **Automatically open port** allows *Streamer* to reconfigure your router if it's compatible with Microsoft's Universal Plug and Play system. You can also choose what quality to serve videos at.


Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Develop Window Help
Roxio Streamer
Roxio® Streamer
Login
roxio

http://localhost:10080/login.html

Please enter your password
••••••••
☑ Remember me for 24 hours

07 Access your videos over the net from a web browser or the *Streamer* app from the iPhone App Store. The browser needs to be pointed to **http://streamer.roxio.com/shortname**, to the address shown on the *Streamer* window if you're accessing from the same network, or localhost:10080 if you want them on your own computer.


Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Develop
Logout
roxio
Date
Title

http://localhost:10080/list.html

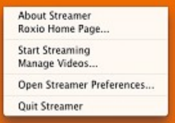
Sun, Apr 13, 2008
YouTube - Johnny Cash Hurt
Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Fri, Oct 10, 2003
snakes
Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Wed, Jul 27, 2005
Monty Python - Self Defense Class
Tuesday, February 17, 2009

08 After entering the password you specified in *Streamer*'s preferences, you'll be presented with a list of the videos available to watch. Clicking on one of these videos will give you a preview of the page and the video – click it to watch it, either in the browser or in *QuickTime Player*, depending on your browser and its settings. ●

TOOL SCHOOL


About Streamer
Roxio Home Page…
Start Streaming
Manage Videos…
Open Streamer Preferences…
Quit Streamer

While *Streamer* is running, there'll be a menu bar addition that gives you access to common *Streamer* functions and preferences, even if *Streamer* is hidden.

EXPERT TIP

turbo
off
on
elgato

***Streamer* serves videos in H.264 format, so a good investment for the frequent encoder is Elgato's Turbo H.264, which can cut encoding time down significantly.**

Keep your Mac tidy

Save time filing documents by getting Mac housekeeper Hazel to do it for you

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- *Hazel 2.2.4* (on the disc)
- Mac OS X 10.4+
- Some files to clean up

Mac FORMAT On the disc

You'll find *Hazel 2.2.4* on your disc.

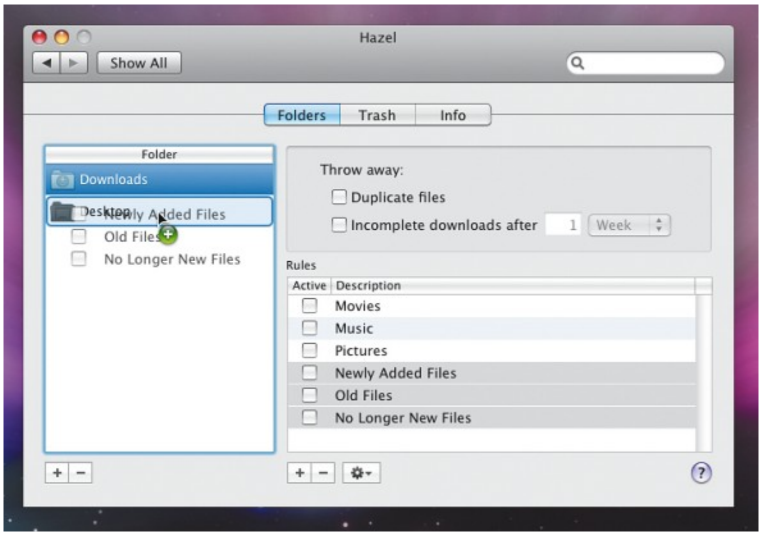
Filing documents is a boring, thankless, tedious business. This probably explains why a lot of Mac users don't bother. If your Desktop is anything like ours, it's probably got icons liberally sprinkled all over it, encompassing all manner of file types, including MP3s, JPEGs, PDFs and URLs dragged from *Safari*.

You might be thinking that it would be wonderful if someone would regularly come in and clean up all the mess, and that's precisely what *Hazel* does. Available from **www.noodlesoft.com** (you'll find the trial version on your disc), this shareware gem enables you to watch specific folders and define rules that affect files of specific types. When your user-defined rules are ready and *Hazel* is turned on, it quietly gets to work, toiling away in the background, manipulating files according to your wishes. With a carefully thought-out set-up, you needn't have a cluttered Desktop ever again.

In the walkthrough, we show how to work with *Hazel* to clean your Desktop, which, as noted already, is usually the Mac folder that gets most cluttered with junk. However, using the methods shown, you can watch multiple folders (and, in our experience, *Hazel* is a well-behaved application, taking few system resources to do its thing). For example, you could apply the rules shown in the tutorial to your **Downloads** folder, adding further rules for moving DMGs to an 'installers' folder, and so on. As a final rule, documents that match **Any File** could be moved to the Mac's Desktop, thereby bringing to your attention the few files that *Hazel* hasn't been told how to handle.

Another great tip, inspired by the *Hazel* website, is to create a folder called **Tidy away**. Give it a custom icon and a whole bunch of filing rules, and then drop it in *Finder*'s sidebar. You can then drag items to it and *Hazel* will magically file things wherever you've told it to.

Craig Grannell



Throw away:
☐ Duplicate files
☐ Incomplete downloads after 1 Week

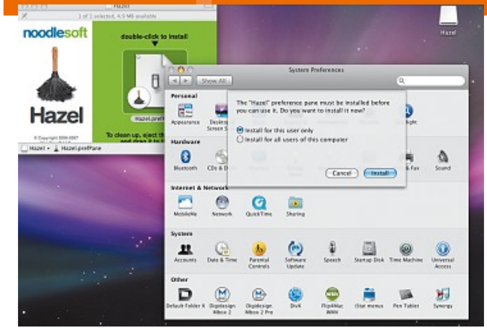
Rules

Active	Description
☐	Movies
☐	Music
☐	Pictures
☐	Newly Added Files
☐	Old Files
☐	No Longer New Files

Hazel rules can be copied between folders by dragging them. It's a simple way of working and enables you to keep a tidy Mac.

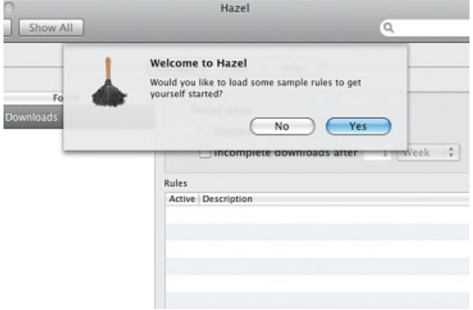
> "When your user-defined rules are ready and Hazel is turned on, it quietly gets to work in the background"

STEP BY STEP Install Hazel on your Mac



The "Hazel" preference pane must be installed before you can use it. Do you want to install it now?
● Install for this user only
○ Install for all users of this computer

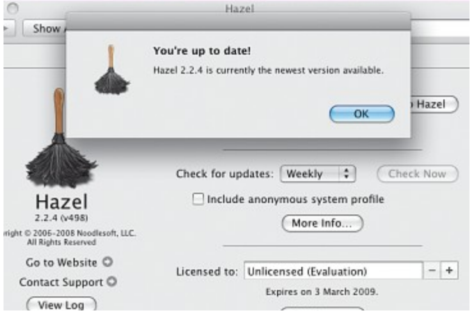
01 Double-click the DMG file from your disc (or download the *Hazel* trial from **www.noodlesoft.com/hazel.php**). Double-click **Hazel.prefPane** to begin the installation process. *System Preferences* will launch and you'll be given the option of installing *Hazel* for the current user or all users of the Mac. Select an option and click **Install**.



Welcome to Hazel

Would you like to load some sample rules to get yourself started?

02 *Hazel* will appear within *System Preferences* (which is where you must return if you want to update its configuration) and display a welcome message. Click **Yes** to load sample rules and then **OK** to dismiss the subsequent dialog box. The three tabs provide access to *Hazel*'s configuration sections. Click **Info** to access the info section.



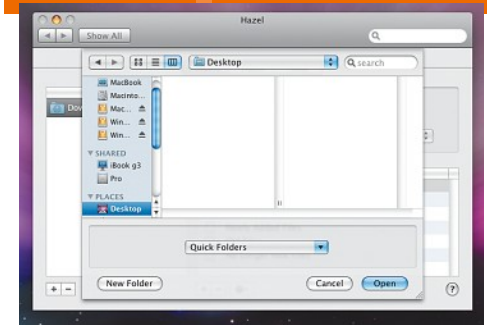
You're up to date!

Hazel 2.2.4 is currently the newest version available.

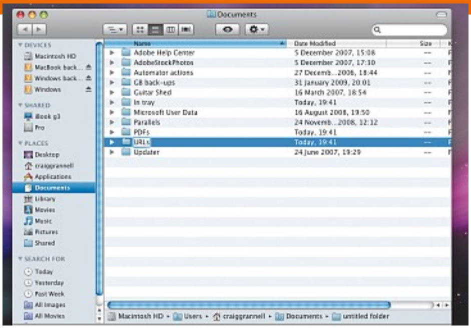
Check for updates: Weekly
☐ Include anonymous system profile
Licensed to: Unlicensed (Evaluation)
Expires on 3 March 2009.

03 You can start and stop *Hazel* using the button towards the top-right of the **Info** section. Check **Show Hazel status in the menu bar** to load the system-wide menu extra. Click **Check Now** to ensure your copy of *Hazel* is up to date (if it isn't, an update will then be downloaded and installed).

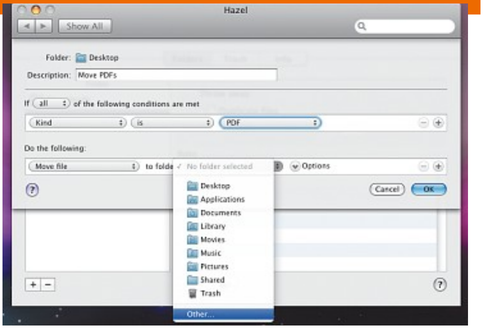
STEP BY STEP Clean your Desktop with Hazel


Hazel
Show All
Desktop
Quick Folders
New Folder
Cancel
Open

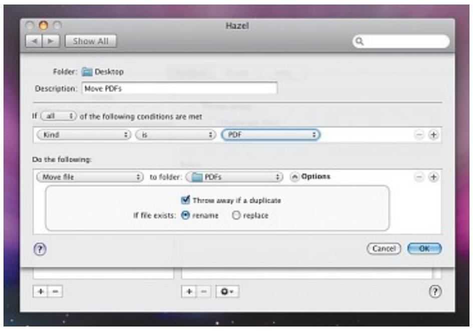
01 Open *Hazel* and select **Stop Hazel** from the menu extra's menu, to temporarily stop it filing items while you're defining rules. (Or, use the button in *Hazel*'s **Info** section.) In *Hazel*'s *System Preferences* pane, click the **Folders** tab and then the + button under the **Folders** column. In the sheet that appears, select **Desktop** and click **Open**.



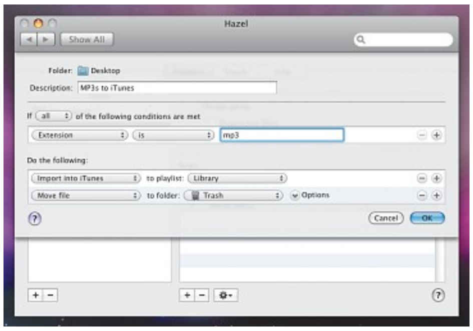
02 **Desktop** will appear in the **Folder** column. First, we'll create rules to move PDFs and URLs to specific folders. In *Finder*, create two folders, one named **PDFs** and the other **URLs**. Back in *Hazel*, check **Duplicate files** to ensure *Hazel* dumps duplicates, and then create a new rule by clicking the + button under the **Rules** area.


Hazel
Folder: Desktop
Description: Move PDFs
Kind
is
PDF
Move file
Cancel
OK

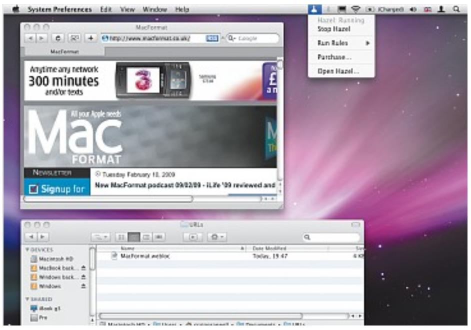
03 We'll sort the PDFs rule first. Type **Move PDFs** in the **Description** field. Using the first set of pop-up menus, select **Kind** from the first and **PDF** from the last. The first menu row should now read **Kind is PDF**. Under **Do the following**, leave **Move file** alone and select **Other** from the **to folder** menu.


Hazel
Folder: Desktop
Description: Move PDFs
Kind
is
PDF
Move file
to folder:
PDFs
Options
Throw away if a duplicate
Cancel
OK

04 In the **Open** dialog box, navigate to the PDFs folder you created, open it and click the **Open** button. Click **Options**. In the Options pane, check **Throw away if a duplicate** and then click **OK**. Repeat the process for URLs, but select the **URLs** folder when necessary and have the first menu row read **Extension is webloc**.

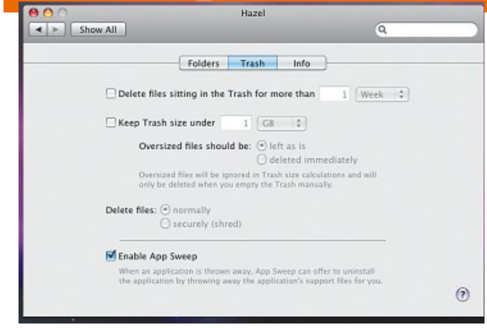

Hazel
Folder: Desktop
Description: MP3s to iTunes
Extension
is
mp3
Import into iTunes
to playlist:
Library
Move file
to folder:
Trash
Cancel
OK

05 Now, we'll create a more complex rule for MP3s. Create the rule **MP3s to iTunes**. Set the first row to **Extension is mp3**. Under **Do the following**, select **Import into iTunes** and set **to playlist** to **Library**. Click the **+** button to add another action. Leave **Move file** be and select **Trash** from the second menu. Click **OK** when done.

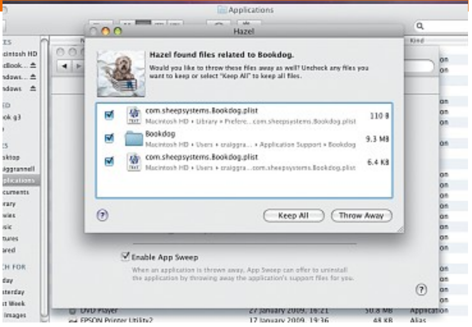

MacFormat
URLs

06 Start *Hazel* from the menu extra or **Info** section. Drop an MP3 on the Desktop, and it'll be copied to your *iTunes* library and the original file trashed, since it's no longer needed. URLs dragged from *Safari* will be filed in your **URLs** folder and PDFs will be placed in your **PDFs** folder. (Note: filing may take a few seconds.) ●

STEP BY STEP Uninstall application support files with Hazel

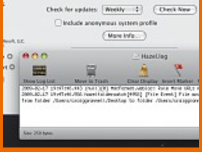

Hazel
Show All
Folders
Trash
Info
Enable App Sweep

01 Open the *Hazel System Preferences* pane and click the **Trash** tab. At the bottom of the window, check the **Enable App Sweep** button. This activates *Hazel*'s automated scanning system for when you want to delete an application. Once done, send whatever app you want to delete to the Trash, but don't empty the Trash just yet.


Hazel found files related to Bookdog.
Keep All
Throw Away

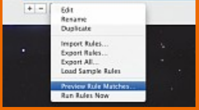
02 Assuming *Hazel*'s running, a dialog box will appear a few seconds after an app is trashed, listing suspected support files. Click **Throw Away** to trash them, or use the checkboxes to only trash a selection. If you change your mind and put it back into the **Applications** folder, *Hazel* will ask whether you want support files restored. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



Hazel keeps a full log, viewable in *Console* and accessible via the **View Log** button in *Hazel*'s **Info** section – handy if something doesn't work as expected.

EXPERT TIP


Edit
Rename
Duplicate
Import Rules...
Export Rules...
Export All...
Load Sample Rules
Preview Rule Matches...
Run Rules Now

If unsure about your rules, turn *Hazel* off and select **Preview Rule Matches** from the Action menu under the **Rules** section – you'll see which files will be affected.

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	Seagate Momentus 7200RPM 250GB	£63.18 + Vat
	Seagate Momentus 7200RPM 320GB	£74.36 + Vat
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Price Drop	Western Digital 500GB 5400RPM	£99.58 + Vat

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Words **Gary Marshall, Graham Barlow** Illustrations **I Love Dust**

App store millionaire

Find out how three successful iPhone app developers made it big on the Apple Store, and how you can too

Back in the early days of PCs, anybody with a computer and a good idea could make stacks of money from writing software. Those days are now long gone – unless, that is, you're writing iPhone apps. The App Store is Apple's ace in the hole when it comes to the success for the iPhone and iPod touch, transforming it into an amazingly versatile device that can do so much more than anybody had imagined. It's opened up a whole new platform for developers and there's a land-grab going on right now. While the apps don't cost that much individually, the number of potential customers means that there's gold in the iPhone. So how do you get it? We asked three developers to spill the beans, and divulge what hoops you'll need to jump through to develop your own apps. ▶

> *"The iPhone and iPod touch are transformed into a device that can do so much more than anybody had imagined"*

Breakin' the law

When you look at some of the daft stuff in the App Store, you might think that Apple will approve almost anything – but that's far from the case. *Podcaster* (**http://www.nextdayoff.com/**) was banned because it was too close to *iTunes*, while digital comic book *Murderdrome* (**http://www.infuriouscomics.com/2008/08/murderdrome-killer-app**) was deemed too adult for the App Store.

So what are developers allowed to do and not do? To get your hands on the rules you'll need to be a registered developer, but here are some pointers so you can tell whether your App plans are doomed to failure.

These are the biggies. You can't use secret APIs, break Apple's Human Interface Guidelines, enable stalking or harassment, provide real-time route guidance, access location data without asking for permission, infringe copyright, libel people, include content "that in Apple's reasonable judgement may be found offensive by iPhone or iPod touch users" or "unduly burden network capacity or bandwidth".

Also, "Apple reserves the right to approve or withhold approval". So even if you stick to the rules, Apple can still say no. When Alec Vance's *Freedom Time* app (**http://www.juggleware.com/iphone/freedomtime**), which counted down George Bush's departure, was banned, Vance emailed Jobs to protest. The reply? "Even though my personal political leanings are democratic, I think this app will be offensive to roughly half our customers. What's the point?"

O2-UK
11:39
New
What's Hot
iPod touch
See The Ad, Get the Apps
ColorSplash
Demiforce LLC
Trism
£1.79
3 reviews
Ethan Nicholas
iShoot
£1.79
168 reviews
Great Apps
iSteam - Hot and Ste...
£0.59
137 reviews
Vectorform
SurfaceDJ
£1.19
Featured
Categories
Top 25
Search
Updates

Steve Demeter, Trism

PROFILE

Name: Steve Demeter
Company: Demiforce
App invented: Trism

Last September, *Wired* suggested that Steve Demeter's puzzle game *Trism* (**http://www.demiforce.com/games.html**) would turn over $2 million by the summer. It's a story Demeter has come to regret. "Releasing sales figures was a bit of a novice business move on my part," he says. "I've been swamped with people asking for loans!"

After just two months of Trism sales, Demeter was able to leave his day job writing software for a large bank. "It's been surreal more than anything else," he says. "I had put myself under pressure to polish and release the game on time, I had burnt myself out two or three times by the time I finished coding."

Demeter is quick to agree that part of *Trism's* success was being in the right place at the right time, although it wasn't all luck. He says, "Trism was the combination of getting everything done before launch; having a good amount of buzz from people who enjoyed the jailbroken version… and Apple getting behind it and helping market it as an iPhone exclusive. Once you have Apple behind you saying 'here, apps like this are why you should buy an iPhone', it's money in the bank."

So has the environment changed? "The market is definitely a lot tougher than it was then," Demeter says. His advice? "Make sure you're asking yourself, 'does my app convey something unique and interesting in ten to fifteen seconds?

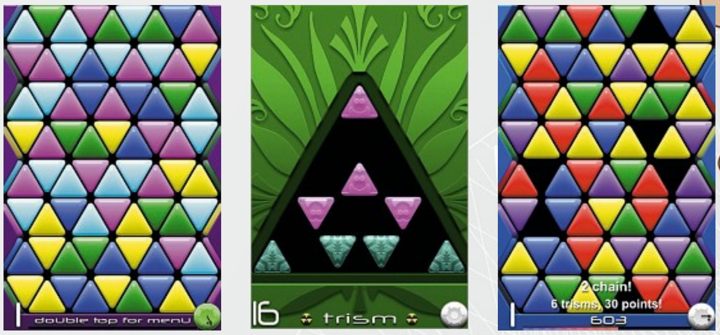
"Look at it this way: most people are eager to show their friends what cool new things they've got on their iPhone. Of the 50 apps they may have, they may only get a chance to show five of them. If your app is one of those five, and it can prove its worth in ten to fifteen seconds, then you've got yourself a successful app."

Marketing matters, too, as Demeter explains: "Start courting an audience before you release," he suggests. "Build relationships with the gaming public and fellow developers. Make sure you can get at least 20 people to buy your game and give your app good reviews in the App Store on the very first day it's out. Once that happens, take your app around to review sites. Be polite, even if you get a bad review. And remember to put some of your profit back into advertising – on the web and in-game."

The success of *Trism* has enabled Demeter to set up development firm Demiforce, which is preparing to launch *Onyx*, an Xbox Live-style gaming service for the iPhone. "We'll be making an announcement about *Onyx* soon," he says. "Other than that, I'm just trying to get my life back."

"The one think I liked about doing Trism was that it was an opportunity. It was a chance to pull myself out of a day job I didn't like, innovate a game genre and trailblaze an emerging platform, all with limited amounts of time, resources and money.

"Opportunities like this are interesting – seeing how far I can go with what I have, and showing the world that the determination of an indvidual can make a difference. These opportunities may be on the App Store, they may not be – but you will see me seeking them out for some time to come."

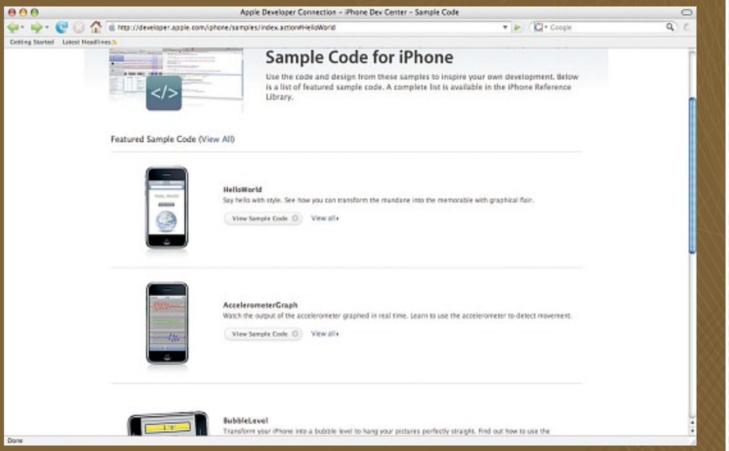


Trism is a perfectly polished and highly addictive puzzle game, which has gone on to become a phenomenal success.

How do I write my own iPhone app?

Fancy getting in on a little App Store action yourself? Literally anybody can write their own iPhone app. All you need to do is download the SDK and become a registered iPhone App Developer at **http://developer.apple.com/iphone/sdk1/**. It's a simple sign-up process and the SDK is free, however your next step might be a little more complicated: you need to learn how to program in *Objective-C*. Apple has a special abstraction API called *Cocoa Touch* that it uses. There are code examples you can study in the Developer area of the website, but unless you are already a programmer of some description you're looking at a steep learning-curve.

However, even if you undergo the rigours of learning to program using *Cocoa Touch*, manage to write an app and get it working, there's no guarantee that it will appear on the App Store after all your hard work. There are a number of hoops Apple make you jump through. First and foremost you have to join the Apple Developer Program, which costs $99 a year. The approval process can take a few weeks. Next you have to submit your finished iPhone app for approval by Apple, and this can be tortuous process. Once Apple finds a single bug during testing your app is rejected instantly. You fix the bug, re-submit the app and wait again, hoping that it passes testing this time. This cycle can continue through many iterations until Apple is happy that your app is fully bug-free. But even then, Apple reserves the right to reject your app if it feels it isn't suitable. Confusingly, Apple can be somewhat vague about the rules you need to follow and some apps seem to have been rejected on a whim.


Apple Developer Connection – iPhone Dev Center – Sample Code
http://developer.apple.com/iphone/samples/index.action#HelloWorld
Google
Getting Started
Latest Headlines
View Sample Code
View all
View Sample Code
View all
Done

Sample Code for iPhone

Use the code and design from these samples to inspire your own development. Below is a list of featured sample code. A complete list is available in the iPhone Reference Library.

Featured Sample Code (View All)

HelloWorld
Say hello with style. See how you can transform the mundane into the memorable with graphical flair.

AccelerometerGraph
Watch the output of the accelerometer graphed in real time. Learn to use the accelerometer to detect movement.

BubbleLevel
Transform your iPhone into a bubble level to hang your pictures perfectly straight. Find out how to use the

There are pleny of free resources and code samples for would-be iPhone app developers on the Apple Developer website.

Ethan Nicholas, iShoot

PROFILE

Name: Ethan Nicholas

Company: Ethan Nicholas

App invented: iShoot

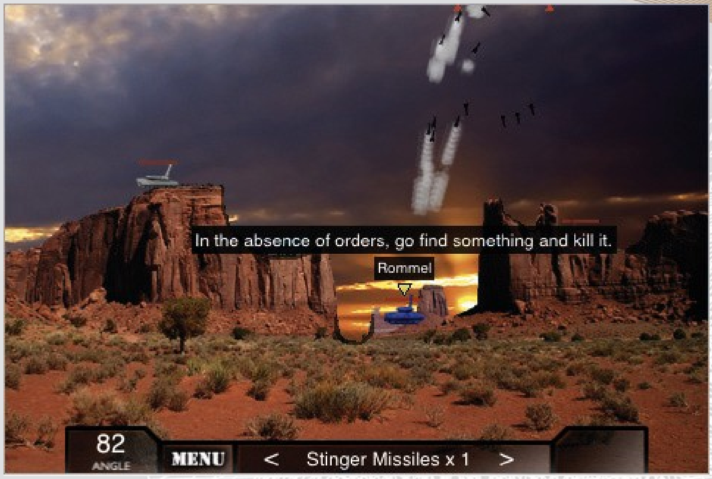
The game *iShoot* (**http://www.ethannicholas.com/iShoot/**) started life as an after-hours project. "It wouldn't have been so bad if I hadn't already had a full-time job," says Nicholas, who was working long hours for Sun Microsystems and coding in his spare time. "I was working eighteen-hour days during *iShoot*'s development, but [despite that] it only took six weeks – and that included learning Objective C, Cocoa and OpenGL."

When *iShoot* took off, Nicholas handed in his notice. So does he spend his days rolling around on piles of money, giggling like a loon? "So far, not much has changed," he says. "I spent the past four years working from home, so I'm still at the same desk, the same computer. Honestly, I don't think the magnitude of the change has really sunk in. I haven't even managed to take any time off yet."

iShoot was initially offered as a paid download, but sales were hardly stellar. When Nicholas introduced the free *iShoot Lite*, though, sales of the paid app went into orbit. "A picture is worth a thousand words," Nicholas says, handing us a graph showing *iShoot* sales from its release in October to hitting number one on 11 January. Things got interesting very quickly when the free version hit the App Store.

Does Nicholas have any advice other than offering a free version to promote your paid apps? "How about 'stop producing so much shovelware'?" he asks. "One number-one hit generates more money than one hundred bottom-of-the-barrel apps, so I'd prefer to see more people striving for number one and not polluting the iPhone with so much abominable crap."

For now, Nicholas is continuing to improve *iShoot*, "online multiplayer support is the next big thing there," he says – but he's got plenty of other irons in the fire. "I'm not ready to share any details, but I have two firm game designs I'd like to get cracking on," he says. "They are very different from *iShoot*, but I think they both have a shot at number one."



In the absence of orders, go find something and kill it.

Get people hooked through trial versions. Sales of *iShoot* rocketed after releasing a free *Lite* version on the App Store.

Bill Rappos, iSteam

PROFILE

Name: Bill Rappos

Company: Great Apps

App invented: iSteam

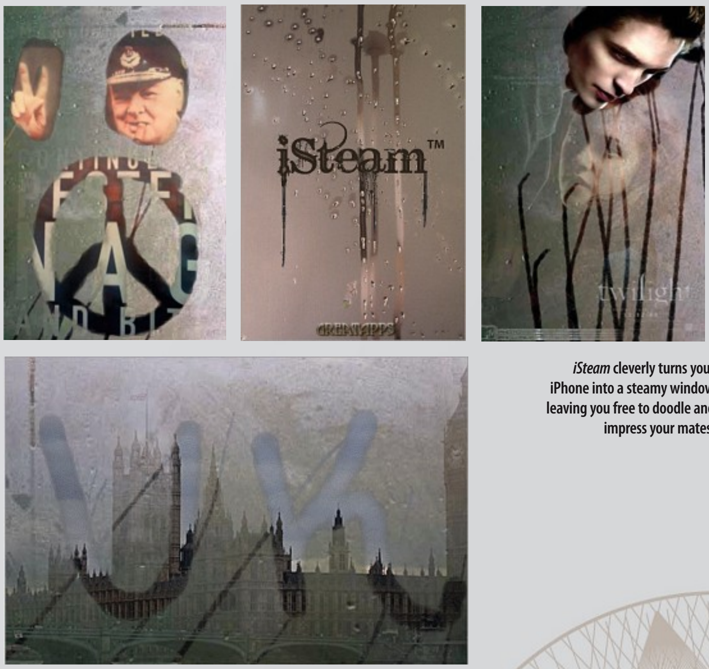
Steam simulator *iSteam* (**http://isteam.co.uk/**) has racked up more than 1 million downloads to date. Just one week after its launch Great Apps, *iSteam*'s developers, predicted sales of $100,000 per month. We asked Great Apps' Bill Rappos, how's that going?

"The 100 grand was only an estimation we made, based on our first-week sales. The way things are right now, it seems we are going to hit that target a couple of weeks later than our initial predictions." That doesn't mean things are going badly, though. "The success of *iSteam* has given us the luxury to make long-term plans," Rappos says. "*iSteam* was just the beginning. We are all committed to our vision, to become a significant player in the App Store providing a wide range of amusing and cheap apps."

Great Apps was founded in November 2008 by 24-year-old Kostas Eleftheriou and 22-year-old Vassilis Samolis. They thought the App Store would be a great opportunity, but they didn't know anything about Mac or iPhone development – so they bought a Mac Mini and got to work.

It didn't take long. The team's first 'test' iPhone app, *Comet Buster*, was released in November; *iSteam* hit the App Store at the end of December. "Coding the initial version of *iSteam* only took seven days," Rappos says. "One of our project selection criteria is to minimise risks by not spending lots of man-hours on a single project."

The team is currently brainstorming its next selection of apps. Does Rappos have any advice for other developers? "There is no easy way in the App Store," he says. "It is saturated with apps, which makes it really hard to survive. Our tip would be, keep it simple and be professional."



iSteam cleverly turns your iPhone into a steamy window leaving you free to doodle and impress your mates.

Q&A

Got a problem with your Mac?
Send your queries to Luis at:
macformat.helpline@futurenet.com

This issue Luis tackles restless Macs, strange time displays and advises on converting VHS to digital

QUICK TIP

Know where you are with iCal

If you right-click (or [Ctrl]-click) an address in *iCal* under Leopard, you can choose **Map of** to find that location in Google Maps.

PROBLEMS WITH KEYCHAIN ACCESS

Q I have just started reusing a Mac I bought a few years ago but I keep getting the message Unlock Keychain – Safari wants to use Keychain login. I have tried using my login password but it does not accept this and I'm stuck with this message appearing every minute. I have tried all sorts of things to correct this through keychains but to no avail.

John Ralston

If keychain prompts are driving you mad it may be simpler to delete and start again.

A Your login password and your keychain password are stored in different places. If they are the same, your keychain is unlocked automatically when you log in, otherwise you'll be prompted every time *Safari* hits a website that needs one of the passwords in your keychain. Just changing your password in the **Accounts** preference pane isn't enough to knock the login and keychain passwords out of sync; OS X will update both automatically. But if you change your login password actually at the login window (because you have your password set to periodically expire, say) the keychain password doesn't change. You can fix this quite easily by just changing the keychain password using the *Keychain Access* utility so that it matches the login password. But of course this presumes you know what the current keychain password is. If the last couple of login passwords you've used don't work, it may be simpler to delete ~/Library/Keychains/login.keychain altogether. You'll need to re-enter all the passwords to all those websites the next time you visit, so that they can be saved in the new keychain, but at least you won't be driven to distraction with prompts to unlock the keychain all the time.

CAN'T INSTALL MS OFFICE 2008 UPDATE

Q I am trying to install *Office 2008* onto a black MacBook with OS X 10.5.6 installed. I can do the install, but the *SP1* update won't install. It will download, but the installation hangs and never completes. I have removed and re-installed *Office*, but it's still no use. I am reluctant to use *Office* without the update, as I understand there are security issues with the straight-out-of-the-box edition. I also get an error saying, There is a problem with the Office Database, regardless of whether I have rebuilt the database using the utility.

Mark Pearce

A It's definitely worth installing *Service Pack 1* but mostly because it fixes lots of little bugs. The 'security issue' is a classic buffer overrun

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from Equanet

PARTITIONING SCHEMES

If you have just purchased a new hard drive, or want to wipe an existing drive, you now have a few choices about how you can set it up. However, before we even start to think about how we are going to format the drive there are options about what partitioning scheme to use.

Back in the PowerPC days we never really thought about partitioning schemes, a drive was a drive and we just got on and used it. However, the introduction of Intel-based Macs brought with it a few twists, most of which the casual user is completely unaware of. There are three possible partitioning schemes that you can use on your Mac: Apple Partition Map, GUID Partitioning Table and Master Boot Record.

Apple Partition Map is the partitioning scheme that has been used on Macs since 1987 and is the default scheme used on PowerPC-based Macs. APM will not support disks bigger than 2TB with standard-sized 512 byte blocks and whilst an Intel-based Mac is capable of booting from an APM partitioned Apple does not support it. The *OS X Installer* utility will not allow an Intel-based Mac to install Mac OS X on an APM partitioned drive.

Master Boot Record is the traditional partitioning scheme used on PCs for DOS or Windows. As with APM there are issues handling disks over 2TB in size and Macs cannot boot from drives that use the MBR partitioning scheme.

The GUID Partitioning Table was introduced by Intel as part of the Extensible Firmware Interface standard and solves a lot of the problems that both APM and MBR have acquired as technology has moved on. On the PC, EFI has been proposed as a replacement for the PC BIOS and on the Mac it has replaced the Open Firmware system that was used by PowerPC-based Macs. As a result GPT is the standard partitioning scheme used by Intel-based Macs. PowerPC-based Macs running Mac OS X 10.4 can mount GPT disks but you will need either an Intel-based Mac or a PowerPC running Mac OS X 10.4.6 or later to actually create GPT partitions. You can only change the partitioning scheme by erasing bug whereby a specially created *Word* document could theoretically cause the program to treat parts of the file as executable code. It's a minor risk; no one has actually exploited this vulnerability and it's unlikely anyone ever will. Virus and worm authors are in the business of going after the low-hanging fruit and this particular plum dangles from the top of a fairly spindly tree growing by itself in a remote stretch of tundra.

Still, a bug is a bug and patching it is undoubtedly better than not patching it. Unless, of course, the patch is itself bugged, as in this case. What happens here is that the installation gets locked into a loop because it believes the product key is invalid. This doesn't mean that you actually have an invalid product key or that you tried to pirate the application; if you did, the key would have been rejected when you first tried to type it in. Rather, the key saved in the preferences file has been corrupted since it was entered but before *SP1* finishes installing. The solution, as with so many Mac issues, is delete the preferences files. To whit:
/Users/<yourname>/Library/Preferences/Microsoft/Office 2008/Microsoft Office 2008 settings.plist
/Applications/Microsoft Office 2008/Office/OfficePID.plist

After you've done that, you'll be prompted for the correct product key (from the back of the install disc) the next time you open any of the *Office* applications.

Installing *SP1* for *Office* will clear the niggly bugs, but there is no real security issue if you don't.

MISSING iTUNES FOLDER MYSTERY

Q **I have tried following Apple's instructions on how to move my *iTunes* folder (http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1449). I saw all the music being copied to the new folder I created called iMac Music Folder. It took a long time. All the tracks were there, in most cases, even with a preview of the artwork. Then I opened *iTunes* with Option pressed, selected iMac Music Folder and got: An iTunes library file could not be found in the folder "Music". Please choose a different folder. Luckily, all the music still seems to be where it was before, as well.**

Robin Woodhouse

A I think you are just navigating a bit too deep into the new folder. The default location for your songs is ~/Music/iTunes/iTunes Music but the library file is in the folder above (~/Music/iTunes). If you select the **iTunes Music** folder you'll get the error message. You need to make sure you point to the corresponding location in the new folder for your music.

MISSING SONGS IN iTUNES LIBRARY

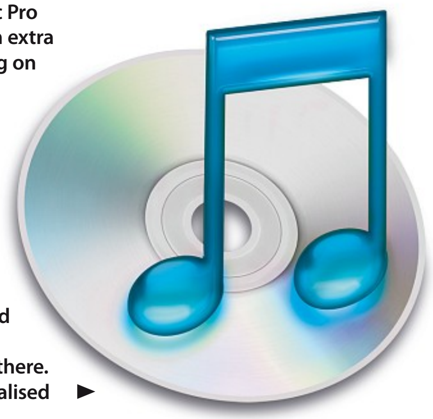
Q **I have an external drive and tried to move my *iTunes* music there. However, I had trouble getting *iTunes* to 'see' the new store of tunes (by selecting ⌥ at startup then choosing the library in *iTunes*). I solved this with the advice in the article in *MF*203 but, although it can see the music and album covers, many of the tunes have an exclamation mark next to them, meaning the program can't locate them. Is there a way of getting *iTunes* to see all these problem files in one manoeuvre instead of doing it individually? Consolidate Library doesn't help.**

Dr Hugh van't Hoff

A Another library-moving problem. This time it is caused because the external drive wasn't mounted when *iTunes* started. This caused *iTunes* to revert to the default library file location but none of the actual tracks are there any more so they are displayed with exclamation marks. Mount the drive first, then reopen *iTunes* with the ⌥ key held down and point *iTunes* to the new location of your library.

SLEEPING AND WAKING PROBLEMS

Q **My Mac is a Mac Pro (entry level with extra 1GB of RAM), running on OS X 10.5.6. My previous G4 developed a terminal problem, so I bought the Mac Pro pre-loaded with Leopard. When I connected up my peripherals *Time Machine* popped up and offered to reinstall all that was there. I did this but soon realised** ►



QUICK TIP

Adjust your widgets

If you mouse over a widget in Leopard's *Dashboard*, and a little **i** icon appears in the bottom-right corner, this means the widget has some settings that you can adjust. Click it to customise the widget.

QUICK TIP

Keep an eye on your junk

Remember to check through your junk folder in *Mail* every now and again. While the automatic filters are pretty good, they sometimes incorrectly flag up as spam emails that you might actually want to read.

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the drive and so you can't do it to the drive that you are currently booted from. If you open up *Disk Utility*, select the drive that you want to work on and then select the **Partition** tab. In the centre of the screen will be a diagram that shows how many partitions your drive has. Under this will be a button labelled **Options**. If this is greyed out you may need to select the number of partitions that you want to slice the drive up into. Having clicked the **Options** button you can then choose between APM, MBR or GPT partitioning schemes. Having selected the partition type you want to use you can then click **Apply** to erase the disk and lay down the new partition map.

So why might we want to change our partition scheme? By default external drives are partitioned using APM, so if you want to be able to install Mac OS X on an external drive in order to boot an Intel-based Mac you will need to change it to GPT.

Another reason may be if you want to create an external hard drive that can boot both PowerPC and Intel-based Macs. In order to do this you will need to start off with a hard drive that uses GPT partitioning, build your boot system on the drive and then make an image of it (also using *Disk Utility*). You must then repartition the drive into two volumes using APM, install Mac OS X onto one volume using a PowerPC-based Mac and then restore the image of your Intel-based Mac OS X onto the other. While not supported by Apple, that will give you a drive that is capable of booting either type of Mac and that can be a good thing to have around if you happen to run into any problems.

GPT
APM
MBR
EFI
BIOS
DOS
GPT
APM
EFI
DOS
MBR
BIOS

Bill Gallop is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet
www.equanet.co.uk

QUICK TIP

Import quickly to iPhoto

The quickest way to import emailed photos to *iPhoto* is to hit ⌘+[Y] to open all the attachments in **Quick Look**. Now click the **Add to iPhoto** button at the bottom.

that included were a couple of issues that occurred with the G4. One was the propensity to start up on its own after closing down. The other is that if I put the computer to sleep I cannot wake it (as with my G4), and have to force shutdown with the startup button.

Laurie North

A I touched on this issue with your letter last month, Laurie, and ultimately recommended getting the motherboard replaced. I also discussed waking Macs in *MF*205 in response to a letter from Ely Farrah. But, I've since been alerted to the possibility that this may be due to a subtle bug in the OS X wake-up function. This happens when an Elgato EyeTV is installed but you can also experience these symptoms without it. I haven't got to the bottom of it yet, but it seems that once the bug is triggered or enabled by whatever is responsible, your Mac will wake at 1am every night whenever there are no other wake-up events scheduled. The solution suggested by Elgato is to add your own wake-up event a long way into the future (the year 2049) so that the event list is never empty. This won't interfere with other wake-up events because they will always occur first. Add the event from *Terminal* with the following command:

```
sudo pmset schedule wakeorpoweron
“03/31/49 06:00:00 GMT”“com.wakeup.
workaround”
```

Thanks to Tony Orr for pointing me in the right direction on this one.

Could the Elgato EyeTv be peskily awakening Macs in the night? Quite possibly…

Time Machine can be responsible for carrying over baggage to your new Mac Pro.

CONVERTING OLD VIDEO TAPES

Q **I have some video tapes that need converting to a digital medium. I bought Elgato's *EyeTV 250* and set about converting my tapes. There's no problem getting the video into my computer in MPEG-2 form but then the options begin to overwhelm my knowledge. I want the best quality but the files swell to more than 16GB for one hour of video. Bit rates, sampling, etc. all impact the quality but I don't want to spend hours trying to find the optimum balance of quality and processing time, whilst wasting blank DVDs.**

George Mosley

A While it's tempting to opt for the highest settings, it's important to recognise the limitations of your source medium and target display hardware. If you take VHS tapes and just digitise them at the highest bit rate and resolution, you'll end up digitising scratches and dropouts with incredible fidelity. This adds enormously to the file size, without doing anything for the perceived quality of the actual footage.

The EyeTV preferences has presets for DVD-quality output that will tell you how many minutes you can fit on a disc at that level. Anything more than 'high' quality (90 minutes on a DVD) is overkill for VHS conversions. If you need better quality, you should be thinking about digitally cleaning up each frame by hand before burning it to disc.

BOOT CAMP DEFRAG FOR WINDOWS?

Q **When trying to install the Windows 7 beta through *Boot Camp Assistant*, it refused to partition the disk, saying that some files could not be moved, and recommending a complete reformat. This sounds like a defrag is necessary, and yet I've heard the Macs don't have to (and can't) be defragged. I don't have an external drive and, while *Time Machine* is great, I don't plan on buying one. Is there a way around this without reformatting? I have an ACPP, is there anything that they could do?**

Oli Hawes

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

BACK TO MY MAC CONNECTING AS GUEST

Subscribers to MobileMe can enable the **Back to my Mac** feature – a dynamic-DNS service that uses the MobileMe account to establish a constant connection between authenticated computers. However, users find this connection recognises the Mac but authenticates as 'guest'.

Apple Discussions poster EmanueleC writes: "I want to access my iMac from my MacBook, on the home network setup via an AirPort Extreme Base Station. I've followed the directions to set up BTMM. I can see the iMac on the *Finder* window but when I try to connect it says: Connected as Guest! And I cannot see any files!"

Users can try the following to get **Back to my Mac** to function properly:

Manually connect to the shared computer

Finder will provide options to manually connect to shared computers through **Screen Sharing** and **File Sharing** services. With the remote computer selected in the *Finder* sidebar, click **Connect As...** to bring up a window and log in with a proper username for that computer (not the MobileMe login). Clicking **Remember this password in my keychain** should keep the authentication information for the next session. This is a workaround for the problem, since the computer is using **Back to My Mac** to establish a connection but then uses network password to authenticate, instead of authenticating through MobileMe.

Tuesday
9
mobile me
Push email, push calendar, and push contacts.
For your iPhone, iPod touch, Mac, PC, and the web.

Restart MobileMe

Restart the connection and associated services, to refresh expired certificates used to authenticate connections. To do this, open the MobileMe system preferences and click **Stop** under the **Back to My Mac** tab. Then under the **Account** tab click **Sign Out...** After MobileMe is inactive, go to **Sharing** system preferences and uncheck the **File Sharing** and **Screen Sharing** (or **Remote Management**) services. Restart and re-enable the services and **Back to My Mac.**

Remove .Mac/.Me keychain entries

The keychain contains several keys and passwords that are used by MobileMe. Authentication to MobileMe services can be

PREVIEW ICONS | Removing unsupported files

Transfer files from camcorder to TV, losing preview icons on the way.

Q I want to view photos from my Canon HV 30 camcorder's mini SD card after transferring them to a Windows-formatted pen drive to stick in my Samsung LCD TV USB slot. But the photos end up with preview icons, which appear on the TV as unsupported files, even though on the PowerBook G4 they have no icons. Can I remove them?
John Penney

A The JPEG image format doesn't directly support embedded preview icons. Modern computers are capable of generating the preview dynamically so there's no need to bother, but some apps will still let you create an embedded preview icon, stored in the resource fork of the jpeg file. Resource forks are a relic of the Classic Mac OS days; they're parallel data streams with additional information about a file. The main information is held in the data fork and the operating system presents all the forks for a given file as a single entity. Forked files are still supported in OS X, although their use is no longer necessary. When OS X writes a file with multiple forks to a disk formatted with a different filing system, the extra forks are preserved as hidden files whose names have ._ at the beginning. These are the files on your TV. Maybe your conversion programs remove the preview icon info from the resource fork but doesn't delete the fork itself. It could be added by a Classic application because neither OS X nor *iPhoto* will create one. It might be the Canon driver, if you are using it to import files. You could delete the ._ files from the USB stick after the photos have copied or you could strip the resource forks off the files before they are copied. *TinkerTool* from www.bresink.de does this or use *perl* to do it in *Terminal*. There's a sample script at **http://tinyurl.com/c2zxa2**.

A This isn't really part of AppleCare's jurisdiction. The usual reason for files that can't be moved during partitioning is that they are too big for the size of partition allocated to them and the files most likely to be too big to move are HDD files used by *Parallels Desktop*. An HDD file functions like a virtual disk volume so they are always chunky. If you are already running Vista or XP under *Parallels* you'll find it simplest to delete the HDD files first before you adjust the partition size in *Boot Camp Assistant*.

BOTOXING A RHINOCEROS

Luis says: In *MF204*, I suggested that upgrading Kenneth Watkins' Power Mac 7300/500 any further would not be cost effective. He did it anyway and wrote to let me know the results.

Q I exchanged several emails with New World Computing in the US, who was familiar with my problem and supplied the graphics card needed to connect my new HP L2045w monitor – an ATI Radeon 7000 Mac Edition ($50). Again on their advice, I used *OS 9 Helper* to 'trick' the 7300 into accepting the installation of OS 9.2.1, essential for the L2045w to work. Even with OS 9.2.1 and the Radeon 7000 card installed and the L2045w connected to it, the new monitor did not work.

Then my American expert provided the third and final solution. The 7300 still thought the old CRT monitor was still connected, because the VGA adaptor remained plugged into the monitor port in the back, even though there was nothing connected to the adaptor. When this adaptor was removed everything sprang into new life! The result was a rejuvenated Power Mac 7300, still in use, working perfectly with its bright, sharp LCD screen and networked with my iMac G5.

In conclusion (and with great respect for *MacFormat*, on whose recommendation I bought the L2045w monitor), I must say that it was well worth persisting those few weeks with the 'obsolete' 7300. The rhinoceros is now a sprightly gazelle!
Kenneth Watkins

A I'm glad you're happy with the result but I still think replacing the 7300 with a Mac mini is a better long-term solution. My rule is not to perform hardware upgrades on a Mac more than two years old. Doing so steals money away from the fund that will pay for your next Mac, which is where you'll see the real performance boost.

LASER TROUBLE WITH SONY CD-R DISCS

Q What does this error mean: The attempt to burn a disc failed. The device failed to calibrate the laser power level for this media?

I'm using the latest *iTunes* on a 1.25GHz Mac mini with a Sony CD-R disc. However an Imation CD-R works fine.
Russell Miller

►

QUICK TIP

Cover art in a jiffy with iTunes

If you burn CDs from *iTunes*, you can easily print a case inlay. Click the playlist and click **Print** then choose **CD Jewel Case Insert** from the dialog. This will automatically include the track list and running times and let you choose a cover illustration.

reset by removing keychain items associated with the service. The keys you need to look for pertain to 'Mac sharing' (login keychain), 'username.members.mac.com' (system keychain), and 'network passwords' used for any of the computers in the BTMM connection.

Remove expired certificates (with the red X next to them), then reset MobileMe.

GARAGEBAND'S LEARN TO PLAY FOR YOUR POWERPC MACS

Apple has released an update to *GarageBand '09* (version 5.0.1), to address issues with the **Learn to Play** features. The description reads as thus: "This update improves overall stability and addresses specific issues with downloading lessons from the Learn to Play Lesson Store. It is recommended for all *GarageBand '09* users."

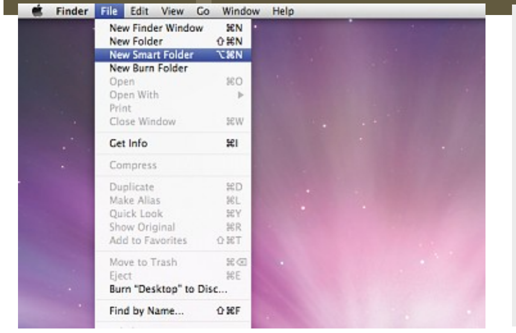
The update is available at **www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/apple/application_updates/garagebandupdate501.html.**

Using Learn to Play on PowerPC Macs

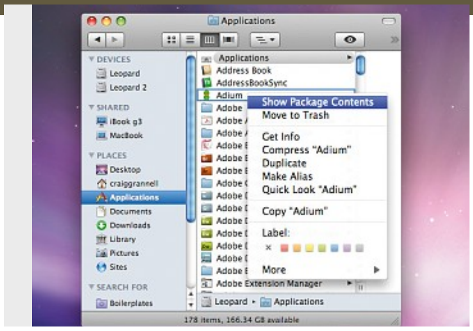
The new **Learn to Play** downloadable lessons in *GarageBand* are only supported by Apple on Intel-based Macs. When PowerPC users pay a visit to the lessons or the lesson store, they are given a message saying that an Intel Mac is required. Despite this, non-Intel users can get lessons to run.The lessons are located here: Macintosh HD > Library > Application Support > GarageBand > Learn To Play.

Guitar Lesson 1 Intro to Guitar
MacBook Pro

STEP BY STEP | Add shortcuts to contextual menu items


Finder File Edit View Go Window Help
New Finder Window ⌘N
New Folder ⇧⌘N
New Smart Folder ⌥⌘N
New Burn Folder
Open ⌘O
Open With
Print
Close Window ⌘W
Get Info ⌘I
Compress
Duplicate ⌘D
Make Alias ⌘L
Quick Look ⌘Y
Show Original ⌘R
Add to Favorites ⇧⌘T
Move to Trash ⌘⌫
Eject ⌘E
Burn "Desktop" to Disc...
Find by Name... ⇧⌘F

01 Even for those of you who prefer primarily working with your mouse, keyboard shortcuts are a boon, providing a quick-fire way of triggering menu commands. By default, important menu commands typically include a shortcut, such as File > New Smart Folder in Finder, which has the shortcut ⌘+⌥+[N].


Applications
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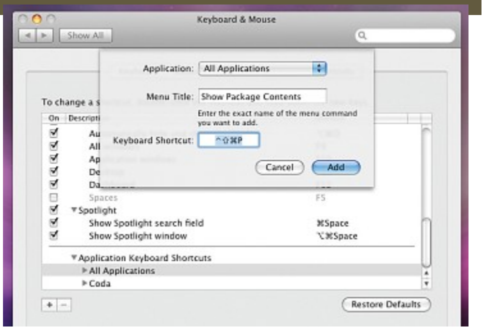
Leopard
Leopard 2
SHARED
iBook g3
MacBook
PLACES
Desktop
craiggrannell
Applications
Documents
Downloads
Library
Pictures
Sites
SEARCH FOR
Boilerplates
Applications
Address Book
AddressBookSync
Adium
Show Package Contents
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress "Adium"
Duplicate
Make Alias
Quick Look "Adium"
Copy "Adium"
Label:
More
Adobe Extension Manager
Leopard ▸ Applications
178 items, 166.34 GB available

02 Generally, contextual menu commands (accessed by [Ctrl]-clicking), such as the depicted **Show Package Contents** in *Finder*, don't offer shortcuts. However, you can usually define one of your own. Start by opening *System Preferences* from the menu, and click **Keyboard Shortcuts** within **Keyboard & Mouse**.


Keyboard & Mouse
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To change a s
On Descripti
Spaces F5
Spotlight
Show Spotlight search field ⌘Space
Show Spotlight window ⌥⌘Space
Application Keyboard Shortcuts
All Applications
Coda
Cancel
Add
Restore Defaults

Application: All Applications

Menu Title: Show Package Contents

Enter the exact name of the menu command you want to add.

Keyboard Shortcut: ⇧⌘P

03 Click + to add a shortcut. Select *Finder* from the **Application** menu, type **Show Package Contents** in the **Menu Title** field, define a shortcut and click **Add**. Use the shortcut to view a package's content in *Finder*. To crop, go to Tools > Crop. Go to File > Save and select **JPEG for an image suitable for email**. Set to 72 pixels and click **Save**. ●

QUICK TIP

Get back to the main menu

If you are playing a DVD, you can get back to the main DVD menu at any time by hitting ⌘+[D].

A This is a technical-sounding message but really, the only bit that concerns you is the first sentence. The second part may be true, but it could be a red herring. Burn failures mean one of four things:

1. The brand of disc media
2. Weird stuff
3. A dirty lens on the drive
4. A faulty drive

In that order, unfortunately. The forums are chock-full of unfathomable tales of computers that will not burn DVDs, regardless of the brand of disc, cleanliness of the lens, make and model of the drive or any other reproducible variable. Luckily, in your case, it seems very likely that your drive just doesn't like Sony discs. Stick to Imation.

SEEING RED OVER PINK DOTS

Q My three-month-old 24-inch iMac has recently started to display two tiny pink dots on the screen, which I find distracting and irritating. Do you have any idea as to what they might be and what can be done about them?

Annie Winter

A It's called a stuck pixel and unfortunately they are a fact of life. A 24-inch screen has a resolution of 1,900x1,200, which is 2,280,000 pixels. Each of these pixels comprises three sub-pixels to control the red, green and blue components. If one of those sub-pixels blows, you'll have a dot on the screen that shows up against certain backgrounds. Red sub-pixels are the easiest to spot and blue ones the hardest. LCD panels are made to much higher tolerances now but they do contain more pixels. Demanding every screen was totally perfect would involve throwing out lots of near-perfect ones, which would make them more expensive.

If you have a lot of stuck pixels, Apple will replace it under warranty. What constitutes 'a lot' they won't reveal but it's definitely more than one. On the other hand, the guys at the Genius Bars have some latitude and, if you ask them nicely, it's possible you might be able to persuade them to replace a screen, but probably not for a single pixel.

STRANGE TIME DISPLAYS ON MAC

Q I have changed from a PC to a MacBook Pro. The idea was to use Windows Vista Ultimate, but now it is a dedicated Mac. However:

1. I'm in South Africa and the time-zone setting doesn't have Harare or Pretoria as in Windows, only Cape Town.

2. I changed the date format to DD/MM/YYYY and the dates in *iTunes* and *iPhotos* changed as well.

3. After changing the format (it changed the files, emails and above data to have the same date!), when I put a date into *Excel*, I had to enter it as MM/DD/YYYY so it could read DD/MM/YYYY.

This is disastrous!

Hitarth Shah

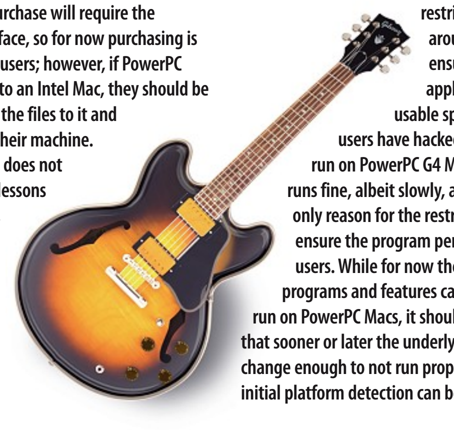
Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

Users on PowerPC Macs can open lesson files by double-clicking them. It appears the lessons run fine when users do this, though some with older PowerPCs have needed to free up RAM and other resources to ensure smooth play.

To get new lessons, Apple's built-in store accesses the web at **http://store.apple.com/us/lessons/home**. By navigating to this URL, users can access free downloads. To do this, open the URL in *Safari* and click **Basic Lessons**. Then select a lesson and *GarageBand* will open. A message will prompt for download confirmation. Users will not see a progress bar or any other indication, but it should happen as long as *GarageBand* is open. Check *Activity Monitor's* **Network** section to see if it is actually going.

But, lessons for purchase will require the *GarageBand* interface, so for now purchasing is restricted to Intel users; however, if PowerPC users have access to an Intel Mac, they should be able to download the files to it and transfer them to their machine.

Because Apple does not officially support lessons on PowerPC Macs, users may run into problems – let us know if any are encountered.



It appears many of the *iLife* restrictions are based around Apple ensuring the applications run at a usable speed. Several users have hacked *iMovie '09* to run on PowerPC G4 Macs. The program runs fine, albeit slowly, and it appears the only reason for the restriction is to ensure the program performs well for users. While for now the Intel-only programs and features can be enabled to run on PowerPC Macs, it should be expected that sooner or later the underlying code will change enough to not run properly, even if the initial platform detection can be bypassed.

TIPS SUPPLIED BY MACFIXIT.COM

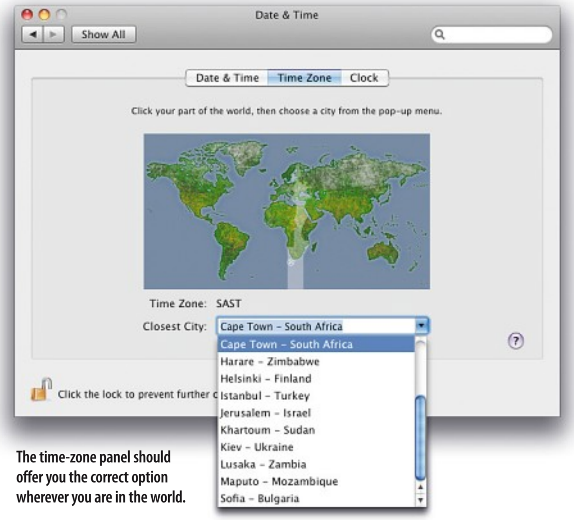
MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit www.macfixit.com for the latest Mac information.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

A 1. For your particular date and time preferences it doesn't make any difference since **South Africa Standard Time** and **Central Africa Time** are just different names for the same time zone. Whichever one you pick, it will be correct for your part of the world.

2. Are you saying that the date format is the same for all the applications? If so, that's what's supposed to happen. Or do you mean that the actual date changed to 19 Jan 2009 for all your files? The file dates might possibly all be the same for your photos and music if they have just been imported from a PC (depending on how the import was done) but new files should display the correct date from now on.

3. *Excel* should use the OS X date preferences when interpreting a date you enter, regardless of how the cell is formatted. And that's the way it works on every copy of *Excel*. But you aren't alone either; there are rare (but persistent) reports of *Excel* ignoring preference settings and defaulting to US-format dates and currencies. It's a bug in *Excel* and it seems to have survived through every patch to the *Office 2008* suite. For now, all you can do is manually format all your spreadsheets to display dates correctly and put up with entering them in US format or switch to *OpenOffice.org*.



Click your part of the world, then choose a city from the pop-up menu.

Time Zone: SAST

Closest City: Cape Town – South Africa

The time-zone panel should offer you the correct option wherever you are in the world.

USING NTFS DRIVES WITH LEOPARD

Q I am shortly going to buy myself a new iMac, possibly the 2.8GHz. My problem is that I have four Seagate FreeAgent 500GB external hard disks that have been formatted on a Windows XP unit. These hard disks carry all my photographs. Will the iMac be able to read these files? If not is there a solution for me? I am desperate to escape from Windows…

Fred Church

A Since Panther, Macs have been able to read NTFS drives but not write to them. If your drives are full and you just need to be able to access the photos stored there, this might be all you need. If you need to write to the drives as well, you have several options. You could leave them connected to the old Windows PC and share them over the network. Network shares are handled at a higher level that hides the details of the filing system so NTFS compatibility wouldn't be an issue. Or you could use *Boot Camp* to create a Windows partition on your Mac and plug the drives into that, but, of course, then you would be limited to manipulating the files in Windows as well. If the iMac has enough disk space you could copy all of the files off each of the drives in turn and reformat them to HFS before copying the files back. If you are planning a permanent move to an all-Mac future, this is probably the best long-term solution.

But if you need to keep the disks formatted for NTFS to retain compatibility with other Windows PCs, you can install one of several utilities to enable full read/write support. Search **www.apple.com** for **NTFS** to find the free *NTFS for Mac* utility.

There are several options for accessing external hard disks formatted to PCs.

OPERATING SYSTEM UPDATE FAILURE

Q I'm having problems trying to update my Mac from 10.5.2 to 10.5.4 as it keeps saying there's a failure to mount. I've rung Apple but what they tell me to try doesn't work. I've downloaded it from a friends Mac with a faster download but still nothing.

Nick Calvert

A Mount failures are usually caused by corrupted downloads. Sometimes this is just a dodgy net connection but often it occurs after the file hits your computer. This can be caused by browser incompatibilities so if you experience it more than once it's worth switching to *Firefox*, *Opera* or *Camino* and trying again. As I write, we are up to 10.5.6 so you'll need to download a different update now anyway. ●

ON THE FORUM

Swift responses to members' questions

Q I recently bought a new MacBook. I want to open an *iWeb* project that I started on one of my other Macs. Both are running *iWeb '08*. I have copied all my *iWeb* files over (I think), but can't find a way of opening the project. There is not an **Open** option under the **File** menu.

ravey1981 Joined: 20 May 2007 Posts: 207 Location: North Yorkshire

A You need to transfer the Domain file over to the other Mac by going to Home >Library > Application Support > iWeb > Domain.sites2. You will also have to transfer any *iWeb* projects over, too.

MacOS10 Joined: 20 Oct 2005 Posts: 1435 Location: Manchester, UK

Q I've just tried connecting my MacBook Pro to my TV via an HDMI cable going to HDMI 1 port on the TV, having changed its settings to external source, with the MacBook already running. On the TV, all I see is the Desktop background and no Dock or icons. Does anybody know how this could be?

gedr Joined: 12 Sep 2006 Posts: 526 Location: Bedfordshire

A It would appear that you are in Extended Display mode as opposed to Mirror Display mode.

1. Fire up *System Preferences*
2. Select **Displays**
3. In one of the tabs (sorry, can't remember which one as the tab only appears if an additional display/TV is connected) you'll see a **Mirror Display** box. Tick it.

Costas Joined: 03 Jun 2007 Posts: 1022 Location: London

Q I'm having problems since I've upgraded to Leopard; it takes up so much hard disk space and I'm unable to import all my music on my Mac. Is there any way to route *iTunes* to use the music of the external hard drive instead of the on the internal, and would it be able to update my iPod to this drive? This would be useful for reserving my internal hard drive just for applications.

j_washbourne Joined: 07 Feb 2009 Posts: 5

A Do the following:

1. Quit *iTunes*
2. Drag the *iTunes* folder from your internal hard drive – located in ~/Music folder – to your external hard drive. DO NOT delete the original one from your internal hard drive... yet!
3. When the transfer is complete, press and hold the ⌥ key and fire up *iTunes*.
4. A **Choose iTunes Library** window will appear. Click on **Choose Library**.
5. Navigate to where the *iTunes* folder is located in the external hard drive.
6. Within the *iTunes* folder, select the **iTunes Library file** and click **Choose...**

That's it. *iTunes* will now display all your playlists, songs, movies, podcasts etc. At this point, should you wish, you can delete the *iTunes* folder from the internal hard drive to free up space.

Costas Joined: 03 Jun 2007 Posts: 1022 Location: London

Join our forum at **http://forum.macformat.co.uk**

Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you!

[1] Aberdeen MUG
Aberdeen
davidjearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG
Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG
Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG
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[5] Bracknell-Forest MUG
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[6] ClubMac Ireland
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secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College
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d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[11] Edinburgh MUG
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admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

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www.glasmug.com

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www.iowaug.org.uk

[16] Kent & East Sussex MUG
Kent
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[17] London MUG
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www.lmug.org.uk

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www.nwmug.co.uk

[24] Norwich MUG
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[25] Oban Mac User Group
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[27] Potteries MUG
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www.potmug.com

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www.seal-apple.co.uk

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http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

[37] Three Counties MUG
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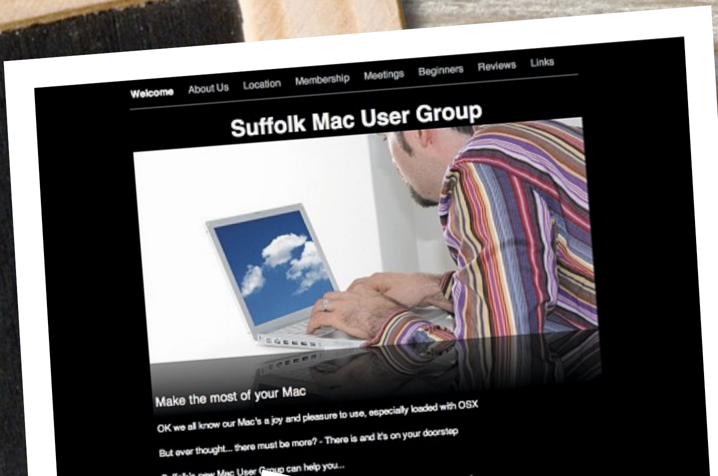
www.3cmug.co.uk

[38] Wessex MUGs
Horndean, Poole & Dorchester
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[39] Witney MUG
West Oxfordshire
oldgit@dircon.co.uk
www.ymug.org

[40] Yorkshire MUG
Doncaster & other towns
witneymacusergroup@gmail.com
www.witneymacusergroup.webs.com

ARE WE MISSING YOUR MUG?
Email in and let us know!
macformat@futurenet.com



Suffolk Mac User Group

Make the most of your Mac

OK we all know our Mac's a joy and pleasure to use, especially loaded with OSX

But ever thought... there must be more? - There is and it's on your doorstep

Suffolk's new Mac User Group can help you...

movie making, creating music...

Step in to a new

Stay on the cuttin

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MUG OF THE MONTH

Suffolk MUG

Last featured a year ago in our May 2008 issue, the Suffolk Mac User Group definitely has one of the smartest user group websites we've seen. The Suffolk MUG is well organised, with meetings and topics already planned well into 2009, covering subjects as diverse as Adobe *Photoshop Elements*, storage and backup and audio/visual conversion. On 22 April, the group is running a special beginners' session, which will introduce new Mac users to OS X from the ground up.

"Last year we helped less-experienced members of Suffolk MUG with an introduction to all the 'bits' that Apple supply 'under the bonnet', i.e. the apps that ship with modern Macs. Feedback suggested that there was some basic stuff that folk still weren't clear about. This course aims to address those needs," its website explains. Bear in mind that this special session will set you back £10, which is more then the group's regular meeting fee.

The group meets every other month at the St Nicholas Centre, near Ipswich town centre, although there are frequent additional meetings for one-to-one help and special interest groups.

To sign up, go to the group's website at **www.suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk** or do so in person at a meeting. Membership costs £10 per year and £3 for every regular meeting. Students only need to pay membership fee. ●

What is a User Group?

Come along and meet fellow Mac enthusiasts!

Mac User Groups are social clubs for Mac users. They offer an opportunity for Apple fans to meet each other and share their hobby. Activities vary from group to group, but typically they provide technical help, product demonstrations and the occasional guest talks from knowledgeable outsiders.

To find out more about User Groups in your area, visit www.macusersuk.org

NEW STARTER

Starting your own MUG?

If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we'll print the details here. Email macformat@futurenet.com.

Equanet

Reasons to buy from Equanet

1. We are the largest Apple reseller in the UK
2. Our direct supply agreement enables us to purchase directly from Apple thus ensuring our costs are amongst the lowest in the business – savings that we pass directly onto our customers.
3. Our highly trained Mac consultants have a collection of both Mac and PC accreditations to ensure your business is using the right solution.
4. Dedicated Account Managers ensure a world class procurement process and support at all levels.

Which Mac are you?

Apple iMac 2.4GHz Intel Core2 Duo

- 20-inch display
- 1GB memory
- 250GB hard drive
- SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

Product Code: APIMIN13

WAS £675 NOW £645

SAVE £30

STYLE ICON

Apple MacBook Pro 2.4 GHz Intel Core2 Duo

- 15-inch display
- 2GB memory
- 250GB hard drive
- SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

Product Code: APMBP26

WAS £1189 NOW £1131

SAVE £58

CREATIVE PROFESSIONAL ON THE MOVE

Apple MacBook 2.0GHz Intel Core2 Duo processor

- 13-inch display
- 2GB memory
- 160GB hard drive
- SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

Product Code: APMB19

PORTABLE STYLE ICON

WAS £799 NOW £784

SAVE £15

Apple Mac Pro Two Quad Core Intel Xeon 2.8GHz

- 2GB memory
- 320GB hard drive
- SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- ATI Radeon HD 2600XT 256MB
- Bluetooth

Product Code: APMP13

WAS £1459 NOW £1385

SAVE £74

CREATIVE PROFESSIONAL

Reasons to buy Apple

1. It just works, straight out of the box, the seamless integration of hardware, software and applications, takes away IT frustrations.
2. Apple's OSX 'Leopard' operating system combines the inherent reliability and security of UNIX with the intuitive user-friendly interface that Apple is famous for.
3. With Intel's Core 2 Duo inside, not only do you get one of the most advanced Intel processors on the market , but the option to run Mac OS X, Microsoft XP, and Microsoft Vista on the same machine.
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As we went to press, Apple made substantial updates to its hardware range, so look out for reviews of the new iMac, Mac mini, Time Capsule, iPod shuffle and USB keyboard next issue. This issue, though, we have the amazing 17-inch MacBook Pro. It features an incredible eight-hour battery life, which is more than double that offered by previous MacBook batteries. But how? Check out our review on page 82 and find out. Also in hardware we have the BeBook – a new ebook reader – as well as a new Panasonic SD card camcorder, some Sennheiser earphones and the Cyber Sport Orbita Mouse, which scrolls pages by spinning.

In the software section, there are reviews of *Opacity, Cubase 5, PDF Shrink* and *Schreiben 4*. We also look at *My CeWe Photo World*, an interesting but flawed photo-ordering service, which has a long way to go before it can match *iPhoto*. Enjoy the issue!

Apple MacBook Pro 17-inch **p82**

Like Thought Opacity 1.2 **p90**

Six NAS *iTunes* servers **p104**

Reviewed this issue…

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Our star ratings

★★★★★	Excellent – MacFormat choice
★★★★☆	Very Good – recommended
★★★☆☆	Good – but you could buy better
★★☆☆☆	Adequate – needs more development
★☆☆☆☆	Poor – keep your money in your wallet

APPLE'S TOP-OF-THE-RANGE LAPTOP

Apple MacBook Pro 17-inch

£1,949 The most powerful Mac notebook to date offers an innovative new battery…

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Apple, Inc
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/574312

KEY SPECS

Processor: 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
Memory: 4GB (max: 8GB)
Storage: 320GB
Graphics: NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600M GT with 512MB
Display: 17-inch LED-backlit glossy display
Wireless: Built-in 802.11n, Bluetooth 2.1
FSB: 1066Mhz
Ports: 3x USB 2.0, 1x FW800, 1x Gigabit Ethernet Port, 1x Mini-DisplayPort, 1x ExpressCard Slot

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Most powerful Apple notebook yet
- + Fantastic battery power
- + Excellent graphics rendering
- + Gorgeous display
- − No Blu-ray option
- − It's not cheap

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It's expensive, but you're getting a lot of bang for your buck. And that battery is truly amazing…"

We recently reviewed the 15-inch MacBook Pro and Aluminium MacBooks in *MF*202, so as Apple completes its notebook updates with this new top-of-the-range 17-inch MacBook Pro, we ask what's changed in those few short months.

The biggest change is the battery. The new MacBook Pro boasts a battery life of up to eight hours on a single charge. It can also be recharged around 1,000 times before wearing out, which is approximately five years of normal use and around three times the predicted lifespan of a standard notebook battery.

Aperture running on the new MacBook Pro. The ultra-thin widescreen display offers 78% more pixels and a 60% greater colour gamut than its predecessor.

Brilliant battery

Apple has achieved this by making the battery non-removable. This has the drawback of having to get it professionally replaced when it eventually wears out, but the space saved on hatches and mechanisms has facilitated a bigger, more powerful battery. And although we've yet to see a price for a new one, the extra cost involved in having it replaced professionally will probably be offset by the fact it will last three times longer than its user-removable cousin.

At under an inch thick and weighing just 6.6 pounds, the new MacBook Pro is described as 'the world's thinnest and lightest 17-inch notebook,' but not at the cost of processing power. Apple's latest packs some serious welly under its gorgeous unibody aluminium shell. In our benchmarking tests, the notebook out-performed its 15-inch predecessor across the board.

The machine's NVIDIA GeForce 9600M GT graphics processor is impressively fast. Using the frame-rate test contained in the popular first-person shooter *Doom 3*, running at a 1024x778 screen resolution and with all graphical FX options set to their highest levels, it rendered 2148 frames in 38.3 seconds. That's 56.1 frames per second.

> "[The battery] has around three times the predicted lifespan of a standard notebook battery"

The results achieved with 3D rendering benchmarking tool *Cinebench (Release 10)* were also impressive. The 17" model's single-core score was 2861, a 3.6% increase, and using all its cores it achieved 5867, up 5.2% on its predecessor. And, if you're not carrying out GPU-intensive tasks, you can use the NVIDIA GeForce 9400M integrated graphics processor.

Final verdict

When encoding digital media, the speeds were solid. Using *iTunes 8.0.2*, it took six minutes to import an eight-song, 45-minute CD at 128kbps. QuickTime Pro 7.6 exported our five-minute, 720x480, 30fps movie to iPod-friendly resolutions in five minutes, 42 seconds, another good score.

Apple displays have improved and the 17-inch MacBook Pro has an ultra-thin, widescreen 1920x1200 display, offering 78% more pixels and a 60% greater colour gamut than the 15-inch version. Its LED-backlit display uses 30% less energy than fluorescent tube-powered backlights.

Apple's 17-inch MacBook Pro gives us few causes for complaint. An optional Blu-ray drive would be a boon. Also, at almost £2,000 it isn't cheap, but nor is it overpriced. Apart from the battery, there's no massive advance from the 15-inch model. Even so, an increase in performance is enough to justify Apple's claim that it's 'the most powerful Mac notebook yet.'

Ian Osborne

THE SPECS | How does the new 17-inch MacBook Pro compare?

	New 17-inch MacBook Pro, 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 4GB RAM	15.4-inch MacBook Pro, 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 4GB RAM	Aluminium 13.1-inch MacBook, 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM
Cinebench (single CPU)*	2,861	2,761	2,653
Cinebench (multi CPU)*	5,867	5,560	5,155
CPU test (XBench)*	149	148	142

* higher is better

The CPU and Quartz Graphics test results were generated using *Xbench*, but do not reflect 3D gaming performance. *Cinebench* is a widely used benchmarking application based on the powerful 3D rendering software *Cinema 4D*. Both *Cinebench* and *Xbench* can be downloaded from the internet for free. Results may vary between equally specced computers depending on several factors, including wear and tear, installed software and the version of the OS installed.

WIRELESS MOUSE WITH MEDIA PAD

Kensington SlimBlade Media Mouse

£30 Kensington's innovative new controller proves a missed opportunity…

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Kensington
www.kensington.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/561544

KEY SPECS

Wireless 2.4GHz, integrated media pad and 360° scroller, requires OS X 10.4 or later, Intel or PPC, takes 2x AA batteries

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Ambitious
- ⊕ Packed with features
- ⊕ Comfortable in the hand
- ⊖ Dodgy scroller wheel
- ⊖ Limited media pad
- ⊖ Picks up finger marks

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"A great idea badly executed. A rare dud from a company that's known for quality."

There's no doubting its ambition. Kensington's two-button SlimBlade Media Mouse not only features a scrollerball instead of a wheel (putting it on a direct collision course with Apple's own Mighty Mouse) but flip it over and you find an *iTunes* media controller too.

This mouse is comfortable and responsive. It looks good and is packed with extras such as a start-up LED indicating battery strength and a slot for the wireless receiver within the unit, so you don't lose it in your bag. It switches off when the computer sleeps to preserve the batteries, which last up to six months.

Unfortunately, its two key features are poorly executed. The scrollerball (or 'jogball' to use Kensington's preferred term) offers 360° movement and enables you to scroll horizontally as well as vertically, but it's very temperamental and often fails to function unless you press hard. You find yourself scrolling sideways when you mean to move up or down too, which is annoying. Bizarrely, you can't click it for a third mouse-button function either, but given how hard you have to press to scroll, this might be a blessing.

The *iTunes* media controller on the underside of the mouse is equally underwhelming. Given its superficial resemblance to Apple's remote controller, you'd expect it to offer the same functionality. No such luck. It only functions with *iTunes*, lowering or raising the volume (on the Mac, not the app), pausing and resuming play or skipping to the next track. You still have to use the mouse to explore your music and video collection. It would've been ideal for *Front Row*, which is designed to be operated using a D-Pad.The SlimBlade Media Mouse is a brave and belated challenge to Apple's Mighty Mouse. With a better scrollerball and *Front Row* compatibility it would be a worthy winner, but as it stands, it's not recommended.

Ian Osborne

Kensington's disappointing offering seems to be all style and no substance.

Kensington

ETHERNET ADAPTOR STARTER KIT

Billion BiPAC P104 HomePlug AV 200

£85 Can this home networking solution offer an alternative to WiFi?

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Billion UK
www.billion.uk.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/560834

KEY SPECS

Transfer rate: Up to 200Mbps
Frequency range: 2MHz to 30MHz
Security: 128-bit AES Link Encryption

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Strong network speeds
- ⊕ Easy to fit and use
- ⊕ Meets HomePlug AV standard
- ⊕ Great alternative to WiFi
- ⊕ Can change plug position
- ⊖ Bulky (though this is inevitable)

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A power-line networking solution that puts in a strong real-world performance."

A power-line network could be just what you're looking for if your home network is cursed by WiFi blindspots, and trailing Ethernet cables around the house isn't an option. All you need is two spare electrical sockets and a power-line networking system such as Billion's BiPAC P104 HomePlug AV 200 Ethernet Adapter Starter Kit. By connecting your computers and/or router to the mains using the two supplied Ethernet adaptors, data is streamed over your home's electrical wiring, giving you an always-on network with the convenience of WiFi and the reliability of Ethernet.

BiPAC P104 conforms to the HomePlug AV standard, so it can achieve theoretical speeds of up to 200Mbits/sec, real-world running speeds are unlikely to come close to this. It's also compatible with other brands of power-line network adaptors conforming to the HomePlug AV standard, so you can mix brands on the same network. Setting up is easy – just plug in and you're automatically connected.

With the machines in adjoining rooms, the adaptors plugged directly into wall sockets and no other electrical appliances running nearby, the BiPAC P104 gave us read speeds of 42.08 MB per second and write speeds of 37.92 MB/sec, which is around eight times the speeds we achieved using wireless-g. We then tried a high-noise test by moving the laptop to a room as far away from the router as possible and plugging the adaptors into extension cables running several other electrical appliances. This had an inevitable, but far from disastrous, effect on transfer rates. Read speed dropped to 26.4 MB/sec with write speeds clocking in at 25.76 MB/sec, still far in excess of what was achieved wirelessly.

You can handily adjust the position of the three-pin plug, allowing you to use the device in a vertical or horizontal orientation. The adaptors are bulky by necessity, so this versatility is welcome when trying to fit them close to skirting boards or other plugs. An excellent touch that rounds off a very strong product.

Ian Osborne

BILLION
1.0 DET
POWER
PLC
ETH
SYNC
RESET

Run your network through your home's power lines with HomePlug.

HEADPHONES

Sennheiser CX 300-II

£30 Ditch your iPod buds; they're killing your music. Treat your ears to these instead

They might not be much to look at, but these little buds sound the business.

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Sennheiser
www.sennheiser.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/562193

KEY SPECS

Frequency response: 19Hz–21kHz
Impedance 16Ω **Weight:** 4g
Extras: three sets of cups, carry pouch

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Superb value
- ⊕ Great audio
- ⊕ Light and comfortable
- ⊖ Soft cable and connector feel robust
- ⊖ Slightly flabby bass and unrefined treble
- ⊖ Asymmetrical cables

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Accomplished sound, compact and comfortable design, and cheap to boot; buy 'em."

Despite a refresh in 2006, the earbuds that Apple bundles with iPods have never been up to much. We say it time and time again: if you enjoy music at all, give them away and buy a new pair.

For years, it was received wisdom that one of the best bang-for-buck upgrades you could have invested in was Sennheiser's now-iconic CX 300 earbuds. Well, they've now been superseded by the CX 300-II. The market price is now roughly double what the originals were at the end of their life, but it's still a fair price, and is likely to drop.

They're light – hardly noticeable in your ear, and the soft, reasonably chunky cable doesn't cause as much crackle in your ears when you move as many others we've tried – and they do sound damned good. There's tons of bass, and while it's a little flabby, it slaughters the white Apple buds. Vocals are pretty clean, and though trebles lack the refinement and assuredness of buds at two, three, four times the price, the CX 300-II's audio performance ensures this second generation of a classic gets our strongest possible recommendation.

There's not much else in the box – three sizes of earcups that do a good job of blocking some ambient noise, and a basic carry pouch – but that's fine. Some might prefer Sennheiser hadn't adopted an asymmetrical cable system – in which the right earbud's cable is longer, and wraps around the back of your neck, directing the main cable down the left side of your body – but it's a good length, and the angled joint at the jack connection feels pretty sturdy. It fits the original iPhone too, though there's no mic or playback controls.

These are not the best headphones you can buy, but they are incredibly good value. With plenty of volume and a big, meaty sound, it looks like Sennheiser has another hit on its hands. If you're on a budget but want to ditch the crappy Apple buds, we can't say it loudly or plainly enough: buy a set of Sennheiser CX 300-II.

Christopher Phin

MOUSE

Cyber Sport Orbita Mouse

£73 Is this the mouse to put the industry in a spin?

The puck mouse rides again! But it's just as uncomfortable to use as Apple's.

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Cyber Sport
www.orbitamouse.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/577788

KEY SPECS

Connection: 2.4–2.5GHz wireless (to the charge dock which plugs into Mac using USB 2.0) **Optical sensor resolution:** 800spi

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Free-spinning design for scrolling
- ⊕ Clever recharging dock
- ⊖ Clicking (and not clicking) frustrating
- ⊖ Can't easily use at an angle
- ⊖ Expensive
- ⊖ No per-application preference setting

VERDICT

★½☆☆☆

"Fine as a jog wheel for media apps with occasional mouse use, but that's it."

When a product looks – and this is a technical term – a bit mental, a reviewer's first instinct is to try extra hard to make sense of it, to give it a fair review. Despite this, and after weeks of use, we're still going to call the Orbita Mouse a bit mental.

The whole circular mouse sits on a disc, and can spin freely. The idea is that you can dial it around to scroll through documents, jog through movies, spin the world in Google Earth and more, just by rotating the Orbita Mouse. Move it slowly for relatively fine control, or give it a flick and let it spin several full circles. You can also press and hold the little grey button on the top to switch to scrolling horizontally rather than vertically. It's a little clunky but it manages to do the job.

It also promises to work as a regular mouse, and once you have calibrated it, 'up' is 'up' regardless of what angle the mouse has been rotated to. This can get irritating. We hadn't actually realised until we used a mouse that always knows exactly where the vertical line is, that often we would slightly angle it to follow the line of our arm and then adjust it to compensate; you can recalibrate at any time. It's a difficult thing to explain, but the upshot is that using the Orbita as a normal mouse can feel incredibly inflexible.

Even more annoying, however, is the mouse's system of right- and left-clicking. The entire top surface clicks – there are two main 'paddles' to it, and you get a better click if you hit them directly – but without constantly feeling or looking to check, you can all too easily click the horizontal scroll-lock button or the orientation button. Worse, right-clicking is done with buttons around the base of the rim, and we hit them by mistake, and missed them when trying to click.

This is more 'a jog wheel that can double as a mouse' rather than a mouse that can spin. It's too large (you'd think folks would have learned from the fiasco of Apple's puck mouse) and frustrating to use. And it's hardly cheap.

Christopher Phin

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User Manual
15-08-2008 1 MB
1/1
BEBOOK
OK/

EBOOK READER

Endless Ideas BeBook

£237 Can this new ebook reader outperform the current cream of the crop?

E Ink is a wonderful invention. An E Ink screen is easy on the eye due to not needing a backlight, and it only draws power when updating, making it kind on the battery. Yet because of the way it updates, scrolling isn't a practical option. In these iPhone and laptop-saturated times, you instinctively miss a scroller, but it's a limitation of the otherwise-brilliant technology rather than a design flaw on the manufacturer's part.

BeBook is an E Ink-based ebook reader, which gets some things exactly right, but in other ways fails to match what's already out there. For example, the Sony Reader PRS-505 is a lot slicker, both in appearance and user interface.

KEY SPECS

Includes Mobipocket DRM support, 512MB internal memory, SD Card slot, includes leather case, reads PDF, RTF, doc and more, charges in three hours, charge lasts for 7000 page turns

The BeBook is functional and workmanlike in both areas, but fails to excite or impress. It only renders four shades of grey too, unlike the Sony Reader's eight and the Kindle 2's 16, making the on-screen text look scruffy in comparison.

The BeBook also lacks features, especially compared to Amazon's Kindle 2, which has yet to be released over here. There's no WiFi for transferring or downloading books (though we're promised this for the next version, along with a touchscreen), no keyboard for taking notes and no option to have the book read out loud to you.

Nor is BeBook the fastest or the cheapest. A search for 'ebook reader' on Amazon shows the Sony device is around £25 cheaper, and turning the pages on the BeBook takes a second or two, which is annoying when you're engrossed in your book. Its Mac compatibility could be better too. Connect through USB and it appears as a drag-and-drop drive on your desktop (and displays those irritating resource forks put there by OS X).

But, there's plenty it gets right. It handles 7,000 page turns on a single three-hour charge, boasts 512MB internal memory and offers an SD Card slot for expansion. While other readers are tied to specific services or limited file types, BeBook can display many formats, including pdf, doc, txt, wolf, html, Mobipocket, png, tiff, jpg, bmp and rtf. It also comes pre-loaded with an impressive number of classic books, to get you started.

Eventually, someone will release the definitive ebook reader, combining style, features, versatility and power. At present, nothing scores well across the board, and your choice depends on how you intend to use it. Pick the BeBook if you plan to view a wide range of file formats and can tolerate a somewhat sluggish performance.

Ian Osborne

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer BeBook
www.mybebook.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/577588

FOR AND AGAINST

+ Crystal-clear screen
+ Plug and play
+ Massive range of compatible files
− No WiFi
− Expensive
− Sluggish performance

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Scores heavily for versatility, capacity and battery power, but it still has a way to go regarding ease of use and performance."

MINI KEYBOARD WITH BUILT-IN TOUCHPAD

KeySonic Wireless Mini-Keyboard

£39 A handy miniature keyboard that's ideal for your living room…

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Keysonic
www.keysonic.de
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/574827

KEY SPECS

88 keys, 2.4GHz wireless transmission, requires four AAA batteries (supplied), Mac OS 10.4.10 or later

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Handy for media Macs
- ⊕ Comfortable on your lap
- ⊕ Built-in touchpad
- ⊖ A little expensive
- ⊖ No Gestures
- ⊖ Some squashed keys

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Not perfectly executed and a bit pricey, but a great concept that fulfils a definite need."

KeySonic's Wireless Mini-Keyboard is designed with the Mac user in mind. It's small enough to use on your lap and features a touchpad with two buttons and a sidebar scroller. An interesting combination, but is it a solution looking for a problem? After all, if you're going to use it on your desk, you might as well invest in a full-sized keyboard with numeric keypad and a wireless optical mouse, right?

Maybe not. The Mini-Keyboard could never replace a conventional keyboard-and-mouse combination for desktop use, but that's not what it's intended for. What we have is the ideal keyboard design for living-room media centre Macs. If you've tried balancing a full-sized keyboard on your lap while searching for a suitable body part on which to operate your mouse, you'll certainly understand where KeySonic is coming from.

With its small footprint and built-in touchpad, this keyboard is the right size for your lap. While the Apple Remote that came with your Mac is great for *Front Row*, when you need a bit more control over your media, this keyboard does a great job of running *iTunes*, QuickTime and *DVD Player*; it's even perfect for playing a quiet game of *Chess*.

The touchpad offers a scroll-strip to its right, which is an adequate replacement for the scroll-wheel found on most mice, but those who own a MacBook will miss Apple's Gestures functionality. Implementing Gestures here wouldn't be practical – licensing them from Apple and incorporating a multi-touch pad would've been too costly. Yet it's annoying when force of habit sees you dragging two fingers to scroll. Also, too many keys have been squeezed onto the bottom row.

The built-in touchpad makes this mini-keyboard ideal for on-your-lap use.

KeySonic's Mini-Keyboard is a good concept. It's ideal for living-room use or for presentations where you need more convenience. Perhaps it's a little overpriced, but it's great to see manufacturers doing something different rather than something novelty.

Ian Osborne

GEOTAGGING HOT SHOE ADD-ON

Jobo photoGPS

£149 The easy way to geotag your photos automatically; for a price…

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Jobo
www.jobo.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/567177

KEY SPECS

Accuracy: 10m **Recording time:** 0.2 secs **Storage capacity:** approximately 1,000 locations **Connection:** USB 2.0 **Weight:** 80g

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Convenient geotagging
- ⊕ Very fast satellite lock
- ⊕ Populates ITPC location fields…
- ⊖ …but floods keywords too
- ⊖ Expensive
- ⊖ Can slide out of hot shoe

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"At a third the price of an entry-level DSLR, it's dear, but it's not coming off our camera."

One of the more exciting announcements from the otherwise slightly drab keynote at Macworld Expo in January was that *iPhoto '09* would support geotagging. This is the practice of embedding the coordinates of where a photo was taken, invisibly in its metadata.

The problem is that few cameras record this information automatically, and adding it by hand is laborious. This little add-on, however, adds GPS to any camera with a hot shoe (realistically, this means very high-end compact cameras and essentially all DSLRs) and will add location information to all your photos automatically. Well, semi-automatically; read on. The photoGPS itself needs to be charged, though it never ran out of juice in our days of testing. Location information isn't embedded directly into your files as you shoot. Instead, triggering the shutter sends a pulse to the photoGPS telling it that you've taken a photo, and it then notes where you were when that happened. (It was good at getting a pretty instant satellite lock – impressive given the shocking GPS-locking performance of the Nikon Coolpix P6000; see *MacFormat 203*, p82.) It claims 10m accuracy, though in our tests it was at least twice as good as this outside.

When you then hook up your memory card and photoGPS to your Mac, the software looks at the date stamps in the photos, and matches these with the data for the GPS locations. We love that it doesn't just embed the coordinates in the files, but looks them up online and writes the proper longhand location – down to the street – into the relevant IPTC fields. It also matches points of interest, something *iPhoto* can do itself. But, much of this information is also added as keywords, which can't be switched off. It's embedded into JPEGs, or added as an XMP sidecar for raw files; it worked a treat with our Canon EOS 400D.

It's not a particularly pretty device, but it locks to your location fast.

photoGPS
Canon
EFS 18-55mm
EOS

The Mac software is sluggish, however, and not that friendly, and the unit itself falls out of the hot shoe too easily; a tightening screw would be welcome.

Christopher Phin

70X
OPTICAL
ZOOM
70x OPTICAL ZOOM
ADVANCED O.I.S.
f=1.5~105 mm 1:1.9
Φ37 mm
WEB MODE
Panasonic
SDR-S26
SD
HC

SD-CARD CAMCORDER

Panasonic SDR-S26

£199 This ultra-mini movie-maker packs in the lens power with its monster 70x zoom

Picking a camcorder has always involved tricky choices between competing formats. Forget old-school battles between VHS-C and 8mm. You're now looking at a minefield of different digital recording formats…

The advantage of camcorders that use SD cards is their size, and the Panasonic S26 proves this. Unlike video cameras that use DVDs, Mini DV tapes or hard-disk drives, the removable flash memory card means there are no moving parts to bulk up the recording mechanism. If you want a movie camera you can carry around, this is it. You can almost wrap the fingers of one hand around the S26.

But it's not the only mobile camcorder that shoots video and fits in your pocket. So, what makes it stand out? There's a 2.7-inch fold-out LCD screen, and a joystick-driven menu system that offers a range of tweaks. But its main selling point is its 70x zoom.

KEY SPECS

Sensor: 1/8-inch CCD, **Memory:** SD/SDHC, **Video compression:** MPEG-2, **LCD:** 2.7-inch fold-out TFT, **Dimensions:** 5.6x6.5x10.7cm, **Weight:** 0.25kg, **Zoom:** 70x (optical), 3500x (digital)

An optical image stabilisation system aims to produce steady shots. This works at low image magnifications, but fails to give wobble-free footage when the full power of the lens is unleashed. Even on a tripod, the 70x setting is shaky.

The long lens is made possible by using an image sensor, so don't bother looking for an HD setting; maximum image quality is limited to 625-line standard-definition. Using the top XP mode, you can record around 50 minutes of video on a 4GB card. Slot in a 32GB card and use LP mode and it can keep shooting for more than 26 hours straight.

The low resolution and handy form factor make this a useful machine for authoring online footage. There's a Web Mode button that keeps file sizes down. But in Top Quality Mode, the footage lacks punch, and the variable bit rate used means you get mosaic effects when shooting moving subjects. Lowlight footage is murky, and the VGA stills camera offers less resolution than a mobile.

The convenience of the SDHC format makes it is easy to transfer files. The S26 offers Mass Storage support – connect with a USB lead and your Mac sees all the files.

But here ends the Apple support. Video is recorded in the .MOD format (also used by JVC Everio camcorders) which Mac apps don't recognise. You can change the extension manually (or by batch command) to .M2V so that VLC (**www.videolan.org/vlc**) plays it. For *iMovie* and elsewhere, you'll need a conversion app such as Aimersoft Video Converter (**www.aimersoft-mac.com**). Is it too much effort for what you get?

Ian Osborne

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Panasonic
www.panasonic.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/561668

FOR AND AGAINST

+ Convenient SDHC card memory
+ Built-in optical stabiliser
+ Small enough to fit in a coat pocket
− Files need converting to play on Mac
− Doesn't record in high definition
− Stills quality limited to 0.3 megapixels

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Fun toy-like tool for web authoring, but is hard to use and short on picture quality."

UNIVERSAL ADAPTOR

Lindy Plug & USB Adapter

£17 The ideal adaptor for international travellers…

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Lindy Electronics
www.lindy.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/434090

VERDICT
★★★★☆

"An extremely handy device, which is essential for frequent international travellers."

At one end of Lindy's Universal Mains Plug & USB Adapter is a female connector that can take UK three-pin, American two-pin, European round two-pin and Australian at-an-angle plugs. At the other end, you can switch between EU, UK, Australian and US pins. Plus, you can remove the cap and replace it with one that offers a single USB port, for powering or charging devices that use USB in this way.

The device is small enough to carry around in your bag, and replaces a whole slew of plugs and adaptors. It's designed for use in Europe, UK, Hong Kong, Singapore, USA, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, China, Australia and New Zealand, and has a power rating of 110V-550W/5A and 240V-1200W/5A, with an internal fuse that trips at 2.5A.

Remember, it's designed to change the shape of the plug, not the voltage of the power supply, so make sure your device is designed for use in the country you're in.

Ian Osborne

EU
UK
AU
LINDY
CE

LAPTOP STAND

Targus Chill Mat for Mac

£22 Is this just the thing to keep your laptop cool?

This plastic laptop stand features two cooling fans powered from your MacBook's USB port. Connect it using the USB cable supplied and they circulate the air nicely. The build quality is acceptable, and it's agreeably light.

However, while it works well as an on-the-desk laptop riser and the fans promote airflow, it does little to cool the CPU. We ran a distributed computing application to keep the processor running at full capacity, then took its temperature at intervals using *iStat Pro*, with and without the mat, and again with it but turned the fans off. The difference was negligible. Suspecting a fault we got another, but the results were the same.

Targus Chill Mat for Mac works as an ergonomic stand to prevent wrist ache. It's also useful for protecting surfaces from heat damage and keeping legs cool when using a MacBook on your lap, but as a CPU cooler, it's a non-starter.

Ian Osborne

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Targus
www.targus.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/558753

VERDICT
★★☆☆☆

"It gets the job done, but is of questionable value to most MacBook owners."

DUAL-HEIGHT LAPTOP STAND

Just Mobile Xstand Pro

£80 A great-quality stand at an insane price…

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Just Mobile
www.just-mobile.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/558763

VERDICT
★★☆☆☆

"A great quality product, but it will set you back at least double what it's worth."

We had to double-check this one to make sure we hadn't been given the wrong price, but sure enough, Just Mobile does indeed expect you to part with eight crisp tenners for its Xstand Pro. So is it special enough to justify the cost?

Unfortunately, it isn't. It's a decent stand, built from high-quality brushed aluminium with a big 'X' shape to remind you you're on a Mac. It offers a choice of two supporting posts to raise your laptop to the height you prefer, with the higher position ideal for use with an external keyboard and the lower operating as a 'raiser' to position your MacBook more ergonomically when used on a desk. Even so, there's nothing here to justify the price.

If you're too flush to worry about cost, Xstand Pro will appeal. Its score reflects poor value for money, not a weak product. It beats us why a laptop stand should cost £80.

Ian Osborne

VERSATILE USB CARD READER

Sitecom 63-in-1 Card Reader

£15 A card reader for all your memory needs…

For those of you who own a range of digital devices using several types of flash memory cards, a multi-card reader, such as this one, is a real boon. It reads 63 types of card, including all the usual suspects such as SecureDigital, CompactFlash, MicroDrive and Sony Memory Stick. SDHC and SD High Speed are also covered, as are TransFlash, MicroSD and MS-Magic Gate. Some cards, such as M2, MMC Plus and CF XS, require an adaptor, which isn't supplied.

The Card Reader's integrated USB cable is clearly designed with the mobile user in mind. Unfortunately, the ratchet system keeping it tidy often fails to lock into place when extended. Even so, this gadget does exactly what it says on the box. If you can tolerate a slightly rickety cable retractor, it's a worthwhile addition to your range of notebook accessories.

Ian Osborne

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Sitecom
www.sitecom.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/558806

VERDICT
★★★☆☆

"Gets the job done well enough, but not without slight flaws."

SITECOM
SITECOM

Do you want to get started with iLife?

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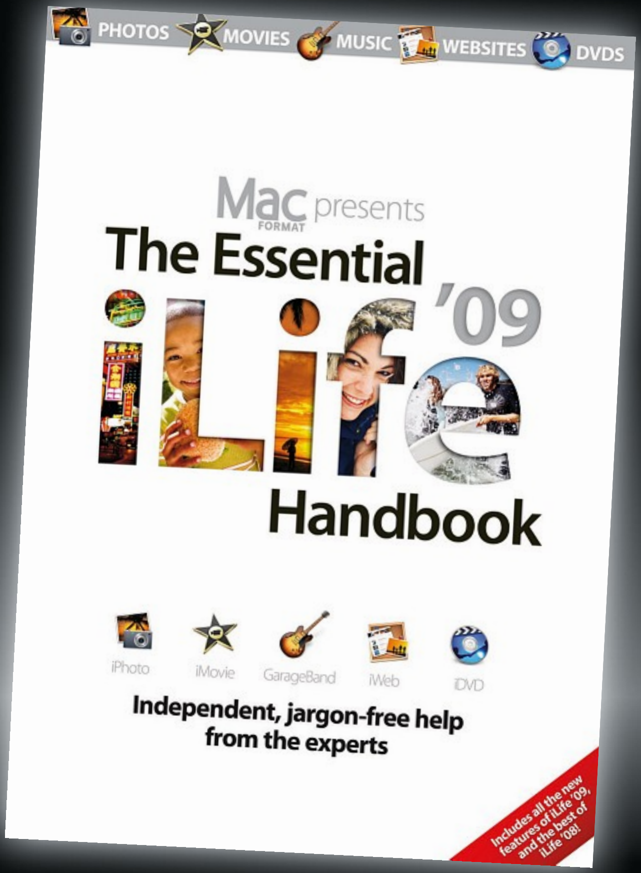

PHOTOS MOVIES MUSIC WEBSITES DVDS

Mac FORMAT presents
The Essential iLife '09 Handbook

iPhoto iMovie GarageBand iWeb iDVD

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screenprint
The digitalsignage showcase

www.signanddigitaluk.com

RESOLUTION-INDEPENDENT SCREEN-GRAPHICS EDITOR

Like Thought Opacity 1.2

$90 (£64) Is this sleek editor the best solution for Mac OS X icon and UI designers?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Like Thought, LLC
www.likethought.com
Latest price on Techradar
www.techradar.com/562256

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.5.5 Leopard

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Genuinely useful built-in templates
- + Interface suitable for newcomers
- + Straightforward effects and layering
- + Good live previews and multiple export
- − Awkward scaling and text-editing
- − Ineffective grid and lack of guides

VERDICT

★★★½☆

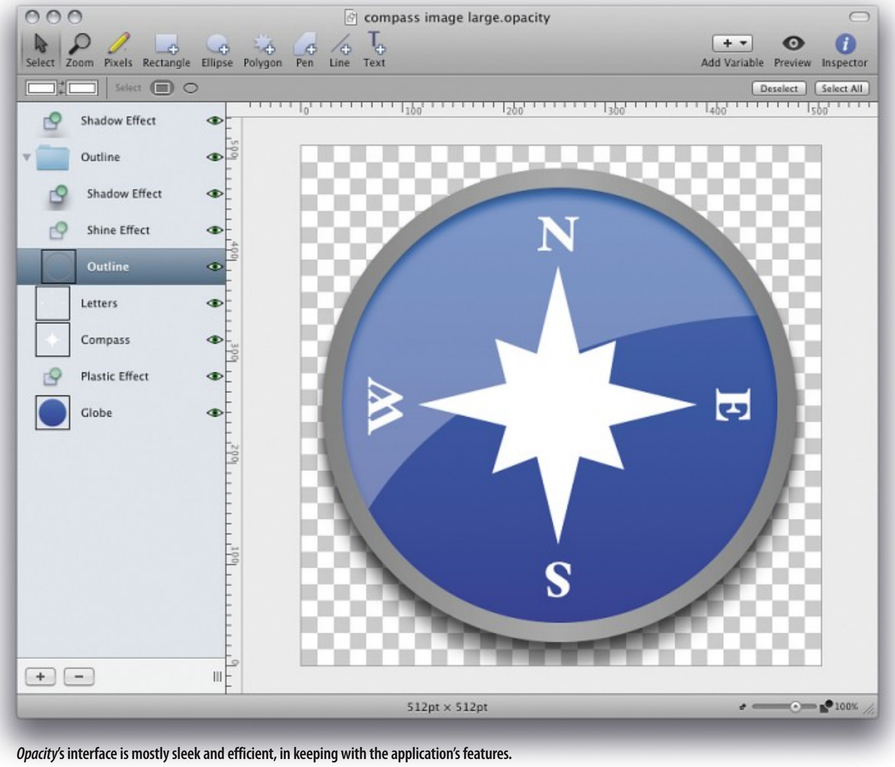
"Clunky editing, but excellent workflow elsewhere means Opacity gets a slightly cautious recommendation."

A common trend in today's Mac indie software is a penchant for clarity and focus. While most industry giants create applications that try to be all things to all people, wildly bloating them in the process, wily independent developers create finely honed software. *Opacity* is one such product, so it's important to understand what it's not, rather than what it might initially appear to be.

Resolution independence

In a nutshell, *Opacity* is a Leopard-only application for creating resolution-independent images (imagery that scales without losing detail, due to being composed of vector graphics rather than pixels). With icons getting bigger in each Mac OS X release, developers often create icons using vectors rather than pixels; and since Apple has stated future versions of Mac OS X should have an interface that embraces resolution independence, the need for vector-based drawing tools will only increase.

What *Opacity* is not, however, is Adobe *Illustrator* 'Lite'. If you're looking for a low-cost alternative for creating print and illustrative work, *Opacity*'s feature-set can't cut it. The developer makes this clear, stating that *Opacity* is intended for screen graphics, such as icons, Desktop apps and web images. Yet by making this the heart of the application, *Opacity* can better *Illustrator* for these tasks.


compass image large.opacity
Select
Zoom
Pixels
Rectangle
Ellipse
Polygon
Pen
Line
Text
Add Variable
Preview
Inspector
Deselect
Select All
Shadow Effect
Outline
Shadow Effect
Shine Effect
Outline
Letters
Compass
Plastic Effect
Globe
N
E
S
W
512pt x 512pt
100%

Opacity's interface is mostly sleek and efficient, in keeping with the application's features.

Top features

Opacity's best features are geared towards efficiency, enabling you to get icons designed, tested and exported rapidly with the minimum of fuss. The selection of built-in templates isn't huge, but covers all bases: Desktop icons, application UI elements, cursors, *Dashboard* components and iPhone icons.

> "Opacity's best features gets icons designed, tested and exported rapidly with the minimum of fuss"

During an edit, *Opacity*'s interface is straightforward. Each window's toolbar houses important tools, which can also be selected via user-definable single-key shortcuts, like in *Illustrator*. The **Layers** sidebar enables you to order and arrange image components, and you can group layers into folder-based sets called **Folder Layers**.

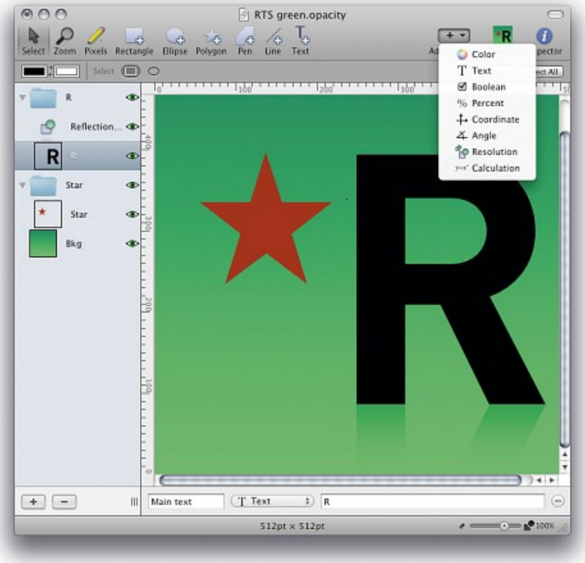
Folder Layers become more useful when you start applying effects, since **Filter Layers** within a folder only apply to the folder's content rather than your creation as a whole. The filter selection is impressive and largely relevant, and the **Effects** sub-menu provides the means for adding shines, shadows and reflections via single clicks.

More impressive are *Opacity*'s preview features. Via the **Preview** window, you can see how your design looks in various environments. Built-in examples include Mac OS X and Windows Desktops, and iPhone and App Store backgrounds. Additionally, using the **Elements** menu, you can temporarily use your design for *Opacity*'s Dock icon, place it in the menu bar, or use it for the *Preview* icon in *Opacity*'s toolbar. It's also possible to override with your creation any website image that you have a URL for, so you can see how your work looks in-situ, but without exporting and uploading it. This is great attention to detail, and ideal for designers who continually tweak and test icons and online graphics.

Export options

When it comes to actually saving work, *Opacity* offers various vector (PDF, SVG) and

Variables provide the means to output unique instances of an image simultaneously via **Factories**.


RTS green.opacity
Select
Zoom
Pixels
Rectangle
Ellipse
Polygon
Pen
Line
Text
Inspector
Color
Text
Boolean
Percent
Coordinate
Angle
Resolution
Calculation
R
Reflection...
R
Star
Star
Bkg
R
Main text
Text
R
512pt x 512pt
100%

THE INTERFACE | A whistlestop tour of Opacity

Customisable toolbar

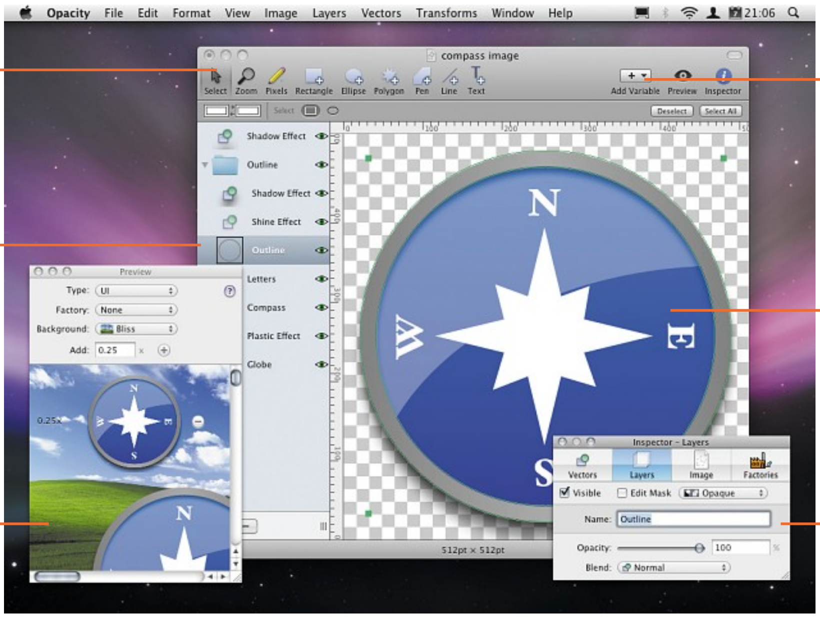
The most important tools for creating and manipulating shapes are available via *Opacity*'s toolbar, and they can be rearranged via View > Customize Toolbar.

Layers

Opacity's Layers enable you to order components and apply effects. **Folder Layers** enable you to restrict effects to the contents of a folder.

Live previews

The **Preview** window enables you to see how your work looks in various environments, such as the App Store and Mac OS X Dock.


Opacity File Edit Format View Image Layers Vectors Transforms Window Help
21:06
compass image
Select Zoom Pixels Rectangle Ellipse Polygon Pen Line Text
Add Variable Preview Inspector
Deselect Select All
Shadow Effect
Outline
Shadow Effect
Shine Effect
Outline
Letters
Compass
Plastic Effect
Globe
Preview
N
E
W
S
512pt × 512pt
Inspector - Layers
Vectors Layers Image Factories

Type: UI
Factory: None
Background: Bliss
Add: 0.25
☑ Visible ☐ Edit Mask Opaque
Name: Outline
Opacity: 100
Blend: Normal

Add Variable menu

Variables can be added to images and bound to a specific object. This enables you to modularise things like web button text.

Canvas

The central canvas area displays your work. Its background can be amended, and the grid and rulers can be toggled.

Inspector

The **Inspector** provides access to options for the selected vector, layer or image, along with the image's **Factories** settings.

rasterized (TIFF, PNG, GIF, JPEG, ICNS, etc.) formats. Unsurprisingly, most filter effects don't survive when exporting using vector formats, but points and gradients generally make the jump to *Illustrator* intact. (Similarly, imports appear limited regarding what survives and remains editable.) This wasn't a surprise nor a letdown – after all, most indie software products (and some more expensive applications) suffer similar problems.

What did surprise, though, was *Opacity* having its own model when it comes to efficient export, referred to as **Factories**. A **Factory** is essentially an export instance, and each document can have multiple **Factories**. Therefore, you can save your image to a number of file formats, each with its own path, on your Mac. **Factories** also integrates with a limited but popular range of software, so you are able to simultaneously send an image from *Opacity* to your web space via **Transmit**, prepare an email in *Mail*, or send your work to *Adium* for instant messaging.

Further workflow efficiency during exporting is available via **Variables**. These are applied to object properties, such as colour, text and rotation, and during export **Variables** can be defined in the **Factories** window. The upshot is that you can, for example, design a button style for a website, and use the **Factories** window to provide unique text for each instance – a big timesaver.

Editing concerns

Unfortunately, snags with *Opacity* will become apparent. A lack of guides and alignment tools makes precision positioning hit-and-miss. Editing text is a chore, and how *Opacity* deals with layers also irritates – you must first select a layer and then your chosen object. The lack of a vector **Pencil** tool is also disappointing, forcing freehand objects to be drawn using the **Pen**, and making creations tend towards simpler shapes. And if you do create a unique shape, transforming it can't be done via drag-handles.

These complaints might stem from extended *Illustrator* use, but we reckon *Opacity*'s method of dealing with certain elements is at odds with the elegance of the rest of the app.

Our only other niggle was *Opacity* crashing too often for comfort during testing. However, this highlighted the robustness of the autosave and recovery.

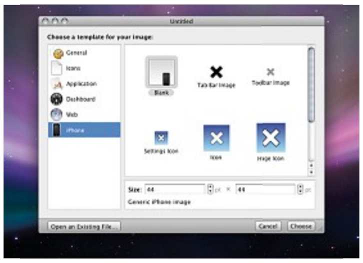
Overall, *Opacity* almost succeeds in what it sets out to do. In not taking on all-comers and battling *Illustrator*, it could carve itself a niche that will become important as resolution independence comes into play. However, at present, *Opacity* is hampered by the clunkiness of key interface elements, and no amount of effects and preview features can get around that. Still, if you can deal with the slightly ham-fisted nature of the editing, *Opacity* provides an efficient and fun means of creating icons and web graphics, at a reasonable price.

Craig Grannell

THE TOP THREE | Opacity's best features

Templates

One of *Opacity*'s main concerns is speeding up workflow, and it therefore includes a number of basic but genuinely useful built-in templates. These provide a headstart with UI components and icons for the web, iPhone, Mac OS X and Windows.


Untitled
Choose a template for your image:
General
Icons
Application
Dashboard
Web
iPhone
Blank
Tab Bar Image
Toolbar Image
Settings Icon
Icon
Huge Icon
Open an Existing File...
Cancel
Choose

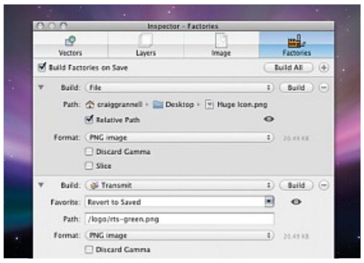
Size: 44 × 44
Generic iPhone image

Previews

The robust **Preview** window enables you to see how your creation will look in various environments, such as in Mac OS X (Dock, toolbar, menu bar), as a cursor, on iPhone, and even online, over-riding an existing image.

Factories

The **Factories** section of *Opacity*'s **Inspector** enables you to build various output formats for your image and export them simultaneously. This even includes uploading via *Transmit*, emailing via *Mail* and instant messaging via *Adium*.


Inspector - Factories
Vectors Layers Image Factories
Build All
Build

☑ Build Factories on Save
Build: File
Path: craiggrannell > Desktop > Huge Icon.png
☑ Relative Path
Format: PNG image
☐ Discard Gamma
☐ Slice
Build: Transmit
Favorite: Revert to Saved
Path: /logo/rts-green.png
Format: PNG image
☐ Discard Gamma

BACKUP AND SYNCHRONISATION SOFTWARE

BeLight Software Get Backup 2

$40 (£28) Backup software that offers slightly scary file synchronisation, too

CONTACT INFO

Developer BeLight Software
www.belightsoft.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/561534

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4, 15MB hard drive space

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Simple interface
- + Uses standard .tar archives for compression
- + Provides versioning/incremental backups
- − Synchronisation interface confusing
- − Slow when dealing with many files
- − No backups made before syncing

VERDICT

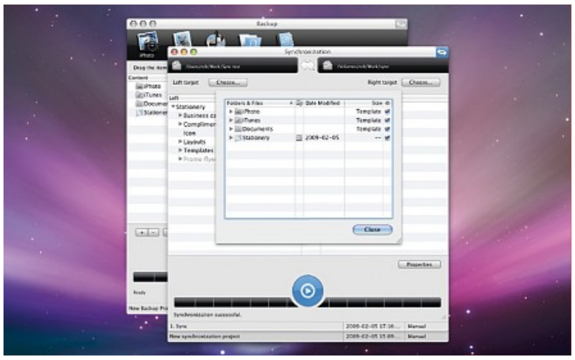
★★★½☆

"Good backup and synchronisation software that needs to be more reassuring."

There are many applications for helping you back up data, including *Carbon Copy Cloner*, Leopard's *Time Machine*, and MobileMe's *Backup*. Yet most of these aren't full featured, easy to use and come as part of other software and services. For those who want more power and ease of use, have Tiger and don't want to pay a MobileMe subscription each year, *Get Backup* is ideal. With *version 2.0*, it includes file synchronisation functions for making sure two different Macs are up to date.

Get Backup is simple to use, with buttons for backing up common files, such as *iTunes* and *iPhoto* libraries, *Mailboxes* and *Address Book*. There are options to compress data into standard .tar archives, to back up in increments and to maintain old versions of files. You can also schedule backups to run automatically and filter out files by extension, file name and other patterns.

New to *version 2.0* is file synchronisation. If you work on two Macs, making sure they have the same, most up-to-date versions of the files you're working on is important. *Get Backup* makes a good attempt at file synchronisation, offering one-way and two-way synching, and it tracks files properly: delete a file from one Mac and it'll delete it from the other, not create a new version the next time you sync. It's very fast, although it crawls when dealing with many files or a 802.11g network.



Get Backup offers fast file synchronisation, although it can be a touch intimidating.

However, the synchronisation interface is confusing, and greying-out is the only sign that something might be deleted – the process can be scary if you don't have a backup: ironically, it doesn't make backups of files it has deleted. There is a **don't delete files** mode, but it will drive you crazy with 'immortal' files.

Although it's not absolutely best in class, for backup and synchronisation features at this price, it can't be beaten.
Rob Buckley

PHOTO AND IMAGE MANAGER

Google Picasa 3.0.3

£FREE We discover how Google's photo manager fares against Apple's iPhoto

CONTACT INFO

Developer Google
http://picasa.google.com/
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/561430

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel Mac, 256MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.9+, 100MB disk space

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Efficient search, import and tagging
- + Plays nice with *iPhoto*
- + Interesting effects and collages
- − Resource intensive
- − Alien, non-standard UI elements
- − Defaults to Google services

VERDICT

★★★½☆

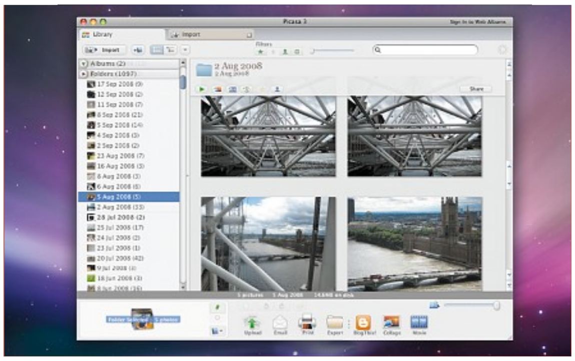
"Fast and efficient, but basic in key areas and the alien UI is frequently iffy."

Much-loved on Windows, photo-management application *Picasa* has Apple's *iPhoto* for competition. We tested a mostly feature-complete beta (geotagging and print ordering being the biggest omissions), and although *iPhoto* bests Google's effort, Apple may have a fight on its hands.

On test, *Picasa* was the good, the bad and the ugly of photo management, with good aspects most commonplace. Importing proved painless, if lengthy, with *Picasa* rifling through our entire hard drive for images. Thereafter, *Picasa* outperformed *iPhoto* in navigation speed, and its ability to track user-defined folders and *iPhoto* content, updating its library accordingly, is useful. Note that *Picasa* never overwrites *iPhoto* content, instead it duplicates images during edits.

Despite its quirky UI, *Picasa* is straightforward to use for searches, editing and built-in effects (notably **Focal B&W**) impress, as are the automated collages, used for creating compositions, mosaics and multiple exposure superimpositions.

Picasa's integration with web services segues good with bad: favour Google services (*Blogger*, *Picasa* web albums) and you're fine; if you prefer Flickr and Facebook, tough. Elsewhere, *Picasa* eats system resources, and album organisation is basic, with *iPhoto* imports appearing as hundreds of folders. A lack of smart albums and events organisation may put off users of *iPhoto '08* and beyond.



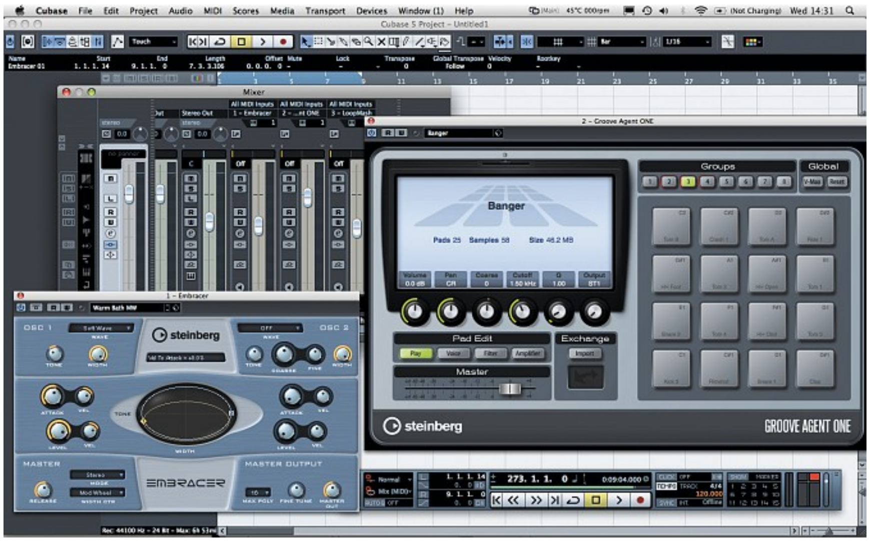
Picasa's feature-set is impressive, but its UI and organisation tools pale beside *iPhoto*.

As for ugly, Picasa resembles a Windows application that's been smashed into Mac OS X with a hammer. It feels and looks strange and there's little here to tempt *iPhoto '08* or *'09* users. However, if you've an older *iLife* or want a free photo manager that can make simple edits, *Picasa*'s worth a look.
Craig Grannell

AUDIO PRODUCTION SYSTEM

Steinberg Cubase 5.0

£499 It's time to face the music with Steinberg's fifth and latest sequencer upgrade



Cubase 5 packs in so many windows for you to play with that the bigger your monitor, the easier it is to work with.

This is the 25th year of *Cubase*, and, instead of celebrating with a cake decorated with MIDI leads and jack-plugs, Steinberg have produced one of their most intriguing updates yet.

Cubase 4 was slated for being less than bulletproof. Now that there's been time for the VST3 plug-in technology to settle down and to swat a few bugs, *Cubase 5* is focussed on adding creative features.

With loops and drum sounds playing such a huge role in music, there's a new drum sampler called **Groove Agent One**, which lays out 64 samples on virtual pads. The clever feature here is ease of use. You can assign any of the virtual pads to any sound, and then edit pitch, volume, pan and filtering with a few mouse clicks. Setting up drum sounds on a keyboard-oriented sampler can be torture in comparison. Paired with **Groove Agent** is a new rhythm programming MIDI plug-in, which must be one of the most intuitive and musical grid editors we've seen. If you want more loop action there's a new loop mash-up effect – called **LoopMash**, oddly enough – which semi-randomly slices and dices grooves into other grooves. It looks good and can add creative spice to repetitive drum programming – but it takes a while to tame.

Pitch imperfect

Elsewhere in the box are some new pitch correction plug-ins. These are Steinberg's own take on the AutoTune and Melodyne effects used by professionals, and unfortunately they're more of a miss than a hit. In theory you can convert a vocal line to an accurately pitched and modulated MIDI file with a single click. Except, in practice you can't. The core autotuning and pitch correction effects demand careful handling, otherwise you can turn your vocals into a pseudo-Cher robovoice even when you're not trying to.

A new sampled reverb plug-in is more successful. Visually this looks almost obsessively detailed and designed, with photos of the locations that were sampled to create the different kinds of ambience. It sounds good, but it's not burdened with parameters – which is a good thing, because it makes it easier to get the sound you want.

> "The new rhythm programming MIDI plug-in is one of the most intuitive grid editors we've seen"

Filling out the extras is a sample collection with 1.6GB of miscellaneous general-purpose loops and samples. This sounds like a lot, but most of that space is taken up with huge sampled instruments, including a grand piano. The loop collection itself is relatively modest. Another couple of DVDs include a 16-bit version of the HALion sampled orchestra. Getting a MIDI orchestra to sound like the real thing is always a challenge, because each instrument can be played in many different ways. Some new articulation features in the score editor emulate the essentials of this, and combined with the orchestral samples it's easy to create effective sketches that are fine for demos and for string and brass background parts. Fooling someone that they're listening to the real thing is always tricky, but this is an admirable attempt to pack an orchestra in a box. It's one of the better-sounding and more comprehensive orchestral collections – even when at 16-bit quality.

Stiff competition

The problem for Steinberg is that Apple's own *Logic* bundle offers so much more, and costs around £200 less.

For newcomers there's no contest – even with the new features in *Cubase*, *Logic* still wins easily. For established users, the decision isn't quite so easy. If you already have years of time and hundreds of plug-ins invested in *Cubase*, there's every reason to want this update. And for the few hundred people in the UK who can score orchestral music with dots on staves, the articulation features may be a real time-saver compared to other packages.

But those are limited markets, and elsewhere the competition is overwhelming. This is unfortunate for Steinberg because *Cubase* is a powerful music-production package. If it had the market to itself, it would be a winner. But it doesn't, and even though the new features shine, more realistic pricing would make it much more persuasive.

Richard Wentk

CONTACT INFO

Developer Steinberg
www.steinberg.net
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/526072

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

PowerPC G5 (Intel Core Duo CPU recommended), 1GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.5.5, display resolution 1,024x768 pixels, CoreAudio compatible audio hardware, DVD-ROM drive with dual-layer support, 4GB of free HD space, USB component port for Steinberg Key (copy protection), internet connection for licence activation

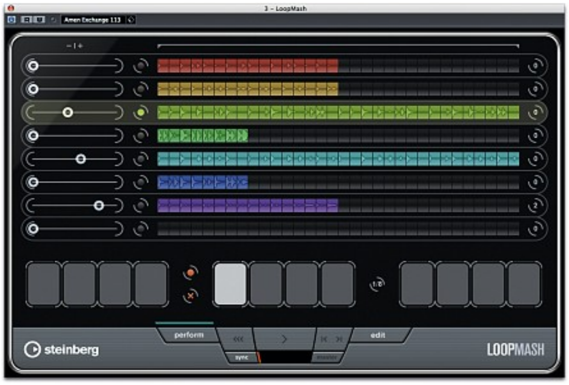
FOR AND AGAINST

- ➕ Creative new features
- ➕ Orchestral sequencing
- ➕ Powerful drum and loop tools
- ➖ Expensive
- ➖ Not completely stable
- ➖ Supports VST plug-ins only

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Traditional sequencing and production with some creative new features – it's powerful but pricey"



The bright colours and variable sample lanes turn *LoopMash* into an improvising loop-hacking tool.

TIME TRACKER AND INVOICING APPLICATION

Stunt Software On The Job 3

Mac FORMAT On the disc

$40 (£28) Stunt Software's time-tracker comes of age with this major update

CONTACT INFO

Developer Stunt Software
www.stuntsoftware.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/561383

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.5+

FOR AND AGAINST

- ➕ Smart, efficient interface
- ➕ Very easy to use
- ➕ Configurable where it matters
- ➕ Customisable invoices
- ➖ Can't save custom searches
- ➖ Basic multi-user support

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A usable and efficient application that has enough depth where it matters."

Despite offering basic invoicing, *On The Job 2* was essentially a dependable time-tracker. A long time in the making, *On The Job 3* is a complete rewrite, positioning the application to rival *Billings*.

On first launching *On The Job 3*, its interface appears similar to its predecessor's, centred around a single-window interface offering a timer bar, clients sidebar and main content area for housing job details. In basic use, you set up clients, add jobs and create timers. *On The Job* tots up overall spend based on user-defined hourly rates.

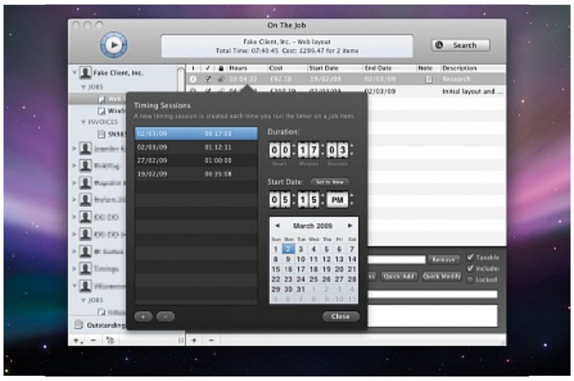
However, the gulf between versions *2* and *3* becomes clear in use, from small tweaks (the ability to drag multiple items; the way jobs can be nested in folders; the option to override default rates), to the radical overhaul afforded to item information and invoicing.

The interface is extremely straightforward throughout, and there's rarely any need for help files. The new menu bar extra is a nice touch, providing system-wide timer access. Elsewhere, dialogues and buttons are all clearly labelled, and although the interface isn't customisable, options exist to change things like date formats, timer animation and deletion confirmation.

Invoicing is undemanding, and can be restricted to job, client and date range. The built-in templates are reasonable, and the editor enables you to create your own. Outstanding invoices are trackable via the sidebar and overdue ones are flagged.

Overall, this is a first-rate update with few shortcomings. We miss the robust reporting from *Billings* (something *On The Job* could match if custom searches were saveable), but *On The Job* is a simpler application, suited to single-user no-nonsense invoicing, and that's much of its strength.

Craig Grannell



A new timing session is created each time you run the timer on a job item.

02/03/09	00:17:03
02/03/09	01:12:11
27/02/09	01:00:00
19/02/09	00:35:08

On The Job is now a fully-fledged invoicing system, sporting a gorgeous interface.

WORD PROCESSOR

MOApp Schreiben 4.4

Mac FORMAT On the disc

€9 (£8) Can a fully-fledged word processor really cost less than lunch?

CONTACT INFO

Developer MOApp
www.myownapp.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/561522

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.5.5+

FOR AND AGAINST

- ➕ Fast and efficient
- ➕ Live word and character count
- ➕ Full-screen mode
- ➖ Interface shortcomings
- ➖ Quirky zooming
- ➖ Broken autosave and snippets

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A streamlined – if basic – word processor with a little too much underlying kookiness."

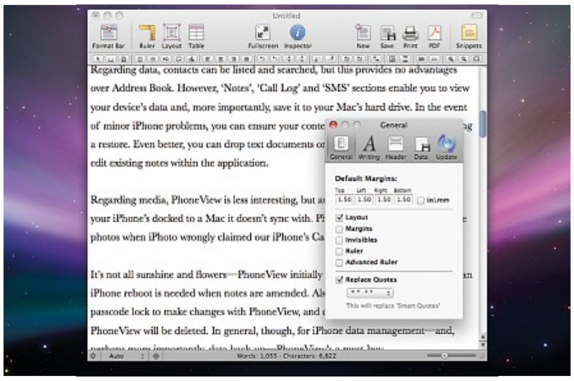
As applications try to be all things to all people, they invariably bloat, feeling like big business rather than an extension of passionate creators. *Schreiben* bucks the trend, resembling a personal software project. While this impacts negatively in areas, this word processor has plenty going for it.

Essentially, *Schreiben* is a souped-up *TextEdit*. It bolts a Leopard-style UI and additional features onto Apple's text engine, providing useful functionality, including a responsive live word/character count, a reasonable full-screen mode, and zoom. The single-window workspace is streamlined, ensuring your screen doesn't get cluttered with palettes and panels.

The default appearance is stylish, echoing the developer's aim of 'doing more with less', although sometimes 'more' is what's required. The **Format Bar** – a row of tiny, indistinct icons that makes adding styles and formatting a frustrating experience – needs more space. The UI needs more refinement: flags to notify when interface components are active, and configuration options for *Schreiben*'s full-screen mode. Finally, *Schreiben* needs more testing – in our copy, **Snippets** (saveable chunks of text and imagery usable across all documents) wouldn't save, and document autosave was irritating beyond belief, constantly prompting **Save** dialogs, rather than working in the background.

Schreiben's shortcomings are a pity, because if efficiency's your thing there's plenty to like – at least if you're not after a *Word* replacement. With a more configurable full-screen view, *Schreiben* would give *WriteRoom* a run for its money; and if its oddities were dealt with, even *Nisus Writer* might run scared. As it is, *Schreiben* is worthy for its tiny fee, but proved too quirky.

Craig Grannell



Regarding data, contacts can be listed and searched, but this provides no advantages over Address Book. However, 'Notes', 'Call Log' and 'SMS' sections enable you to view your device's data and, more importantly, save it to your Mac's hard drive. In the event of minor iPhone problems, you can ensure your conte

a restore. Even better, you can drop text documents o

edit existing notes within the application.

Regarding media, PhoneView is less interesting, but a

your iPhone's docked to a Mac it doesn't sync with. Pl

photos when iPhoto wrongly claimed our iPhone's Ca

It's not all sunshine and flowers—PhoneView initially

iPhone reboot is needed when notes are amended. Al

passcode lock to make changes with PhoneView, and

PhoneView will be deleted. In general, though, for iPhone data management—and,

Default Margins:

1.50 1.50 1.50 1.50 ☐ in/mm

☑ Layout
☐ Margins
☐ Invisibles
☐ Ruler
☐ Advanced Ruler

☑ Replace Quotes

This will replace 'Smart Quotes'

Words: 1,055 · Characters: 6,822

Schreiben's single-window workflow is efficient, but styling is a pain.

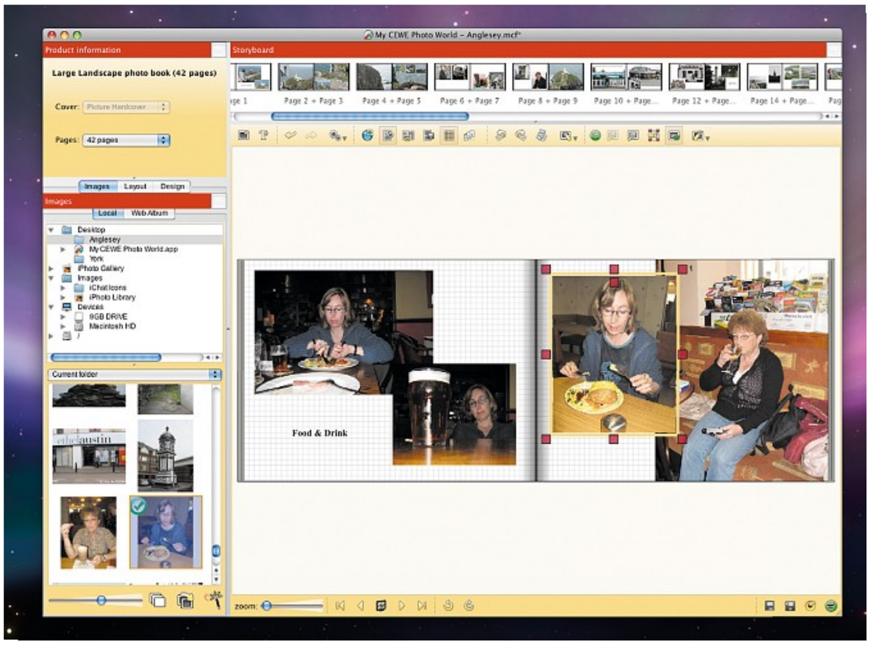
PHOTO-ORDERING UTILITY

My CeWe Photo World

£FREE Create books, calendars and more with your digital photos, but can it compete with iPhoto?

Previously PC-only, the recently released and free-to-download version 4.5 of the *My CeWe Photo World* photo-printing application offers Mac compatibility. There is also a host of new features and products, but how does it compare with *iPhoto*?

My CeWe Photo World lets you use your digital photos to design and order products offered by *Photo World*, such as prints, photobooks, poster- and canvas-sized reproductions, greetings cards, calendars and all sorts of gifts. Unfortunately, the user interface lacks polish. It's functional and straightforward, but lacks in clarity. For example, in the layout section, the **Frame** and **Image** pull-downs are shown by the same icon, but flipped horizontally.


My CEWE Photo World – Anglesey.mcf*
Product information
Storyboard
Large Landscape photo book (42 pages)
Cover:
Pages: 42 pages
Images
Layout
Design
Local
Web Album
Desktop
Anglesey
My CEWE Photo World.app
York
Photo Gallery
Images
iChat Icons
iPhoto Library
Devices
8GB DRIVE
Macintosh HD
Current folder
Food & Drink
zoom:

Laying out is fun, but never as instinctive as we'd like and requires some level of expertise in order to get things exactly how you want.

Tiresome uploading

Importing your photos into the application is cumbersome. Although it interfaces with your *iPhoto* library, it doesn't offer your pictures in **Albums** or **Events**. Instead you're presented with *iPhoto*'s folder tree, which wasn't designed to be navigated by the end user. To make matters worse, the application crashed by inadvertently selecting pictures that were in the trash. You can get around these problems by creating a folder on your Desktop and dragging the pictures you wish to use into it directly from *iPhoto*, but you really shouldn't have to.

Laying out your books, cards and gifts is straightforward, but again you're hampered by the cumbersome interface. There are plenty of options and you soon get the hang of its idiosyncrasies, but designing your goodies never feels instinctive. There are some useful touches in there, such as the **Help Grid** used to help line up your pictures on the page, and the **Frame Positioning** option to align your pictures automatically or set the size and zoom. The expected layout features are there, such as resizing or rotating image windows, overlapping pictures, on-page text and adding frames or drop-shadows. You can add backgrounds to your pages if required, and even throw in the odd piece of clip art. Yet, for the average user, *Photo World* is less than instinctive.

Price-wise, *My CeWe Photo World* is cheaper than Apple's service. 6x4 photos cost just 8p each against *iPhoto*'s VAT-adjusted 11p, and 7x5 prints are 18p with *iPhoto* charging 27p. Larger reprints are slightly more expensive, with Apple charging £1.11 for a 10x8 against *CeWe*'s £1.19. Apple's calendars start at around £14.50 after VAT, with a *CeWe* offering a similar product for £9.99, with a bigger range of products and sizes on offer. When looking at photobooks it's difficult to compare like with like, but *CeWe* is competitive and again offers a much better range.

> "The application crashed by inadvertently selecting pictures that were in the trash…"

Range of products

The range of goods on offer is where *CeWe*'s scores heavily. You can buy mousemats, jigsaws, mugs, stickers, keyrings, textiles, playing cards and more, all decorated with your photos of choice. You can even order cuddly toys with your chosen image printed on its t-shirt. It's an impressive selection that certainly puts the *iPhoto* range in the shade, and as there's very little layout involved here, so the clumsy interface is not really an issue.

And the results? We ordered a hard-cover photobook and some gifts – and we were impressed. The mug was a little dark and the mousemat not as crisp as we'd have liked, but this was partly down to the choice of shots. Overall, the goods were of a high standard. We can't comment on the quality of ordinary prints as the software crashed every time we tried to order some.

My CeWe Photo World is useful for ordering goods that *iPhoto* doesn't offer, and when it's stable it will be handy for cheaper prints. But, without improvements, it can't be recommended for designing photobooks and calendars.

Ian Osborne

CONTACT INFO

Developer CeWe
www.cewe-photoworld.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/576743

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.5, internet connection for ordering

FOR AND AGAINST

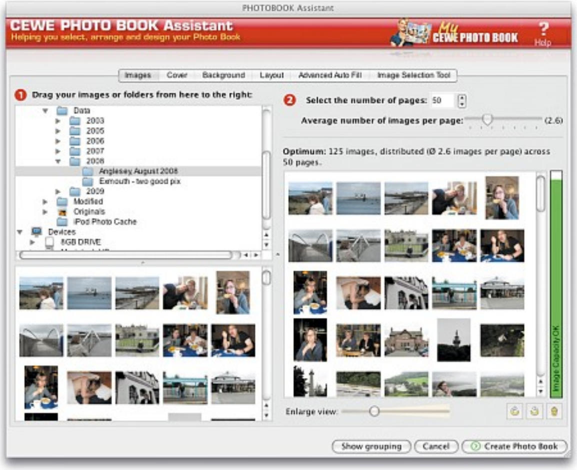
- ⊕ Cheap prints
- ⊕ Very impressive gift range
- ⊖ Clunky user interface
- ⊖ Poor file management
- ⊖ Unstable
- ⊖ Not very Mac-like

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"A poor initial release that could – and must – get better over time. Worth keeping an eye on for the future."

Select photos with the *CeWe Photo* Book Assistant – you can trawl your *iPhoto* collection, but with little elegance.


PHOTOBOOK Assistant
CEWE PHOTO BOOK Assistant
Helping you select, arrange and design your Photo Book
My CEWE PHOTO BOOK
Help
Images
Cover
Background
Layout
Advanced Auto Fill
Image Selection Tool
Drag your images or folders from here to the right:
Data
2003
2005
2006
2007
2008
Anglesey August 2008
Exmouth - two good pix
2009
Modified
Originals
iPod Photo Cache
Devices
8GB DRIVE
Select the number of pages: 50
Average number of images per page:
(2.6)
Optimum: 125 images, distributed (Ø 2.6 images per page) across 50 pages.
Enlarge view:
Show grouping
Cancel
Create Photo Book

PDF OPTIMISER

Apago PDF Shrink 4.5

Mac FORMAT On the disc

$35 (£25) The easy way to optimise your PDFs…

CONTACT INFO

Developer Apago, Inc
www.apagoinc.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/563472

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

G3, G4, G5 or Intel processor, 128MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Versatile
- + Easy to use
- + Comprehensive range of options
- + Very configurable
- − Can't transfer to iPhones
- − A little expensive

VERDICT

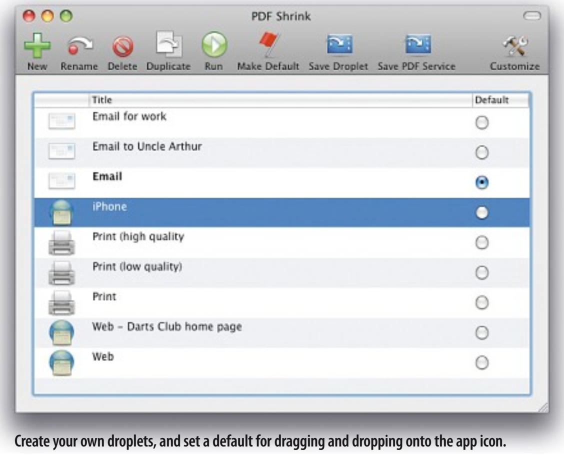
★★★★☆

"An impressive application that comes in handy if you need to email a lot of PDFs."

Apago's *PDF Shrink* seeks to cut your PDFs down to size by optimising images and removing duplicated or unnecessary information. By default, you have four configurations on offer – **Email**, **iPhone**, **Print** and **Web**. Dragging and dropping your PDF document onto one of these optimises it according to the settings you've chosen. Each droplet lets you set a balance between shrinkage and quality, optimise your document according to what viewers will be used, and choose where to save and protect the document with a password. Advanced settings allow you to set print resolution and compression quality, remove unnecessary font data and more.

You can duplicate and rename droplets or set up new ones from scratch, allowing you to create processes for specific tasks. For example, you might want your PDFs web-optimised, renamed and saved to a specific folder, or apply shrinkage when emailing to an ancient PC with a dial-up internet connection. You can also set a default droplet for when you drag and drop files onto the application icon.

Dropping a folder full of PDFs onto the default email droplet shrank a text-only ebook from 4MB to 1.8MB, with a visuals-heavy leaflet going from 2.4MB to 224kb. Using the default print droplet, the book reached 2MB, while the leaflet remained at 2.4MB.



Title	Default
Email for work	○
Email to Uncle Arthur	○
Email	●
iPhone	○
Print (high quality	○
Print (low quality)	○
Print	○
Web – Darts Club home page	○
Web	○

Create your own droplets, and set a default for dragging and dropping onto the app icon.

The quality of the PDFs was perfectly satisfactory.

The export options in *PDF Shrink* offer versatility, but the means to transfer a squashed PDF to your iPhone after processing is lacking, and maybe at US$35 it's a tad expensive, but it's definitely worth a look for those who work with PDFs frequently.

Ian Osborne

NOTE-TAKING UTILITY

SlidePad 1.0.1

Mac FORMAT On the disc

$20 (£14) A sometimes-irritating solution in search of a problem…

CONTACT INFO

Developer Dare to be Creative
http://slidepad-mac.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/560823

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Entirely controllable from the keyboard
- + Useful paste and jump functions
- − Real-time spellcheck barely works
- − Slow handling of long text
- − Unnecessary text-editing features
- − Confusing mouse control

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

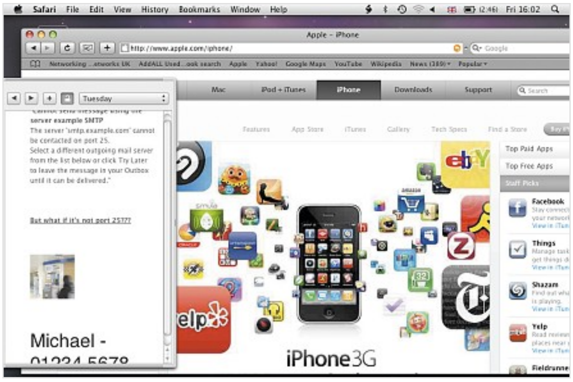
"*SlidePad*'s only advantage over *TextEdit* is activation from the keyboard."

The concept is simple. An easily summoned and retractable space for note-taking while you're working in another application, controllable from the keyboard so as not to interrupt your flow. The question is whether *SlidePad* delivers $20-worth of functionality compared to *TextEdit*, *Stickies* or *Sidenote*.

It does the basic job. You can set any key combination to control *SlidePad*, and decide whether you want it to appear from the left or right of the screen. You can create multiple named notes (in effect, documents) and cycle through them using keyboard combos or the mouse, and perform all the standard text-editing functions plus a few nice extras like **Paste And Match Style**, which pastes text in the style already in force at the insertion point, and **Jump To Selection**, useful when you've scrolled some way from selected text in a long document.

Unfortunately, that's about all it does, and some features are of questionable utility. Is it necessary to have kerning in a note-taking app? And why does the **Check Spelling While Typing** option miss so many errors? (The document spellcheck works better.)

It's possible to use the mouse instead of keys to bring *SlidePad* into action, but it can make unwanted appearances when you're working close to the edge of the screen in another app. *SlidePad* struggled with long strings – a 22,000-word passage (which didn't cause *TextEdit* to blink) took about 20 seconds to reappear after another note was visited. This makes it nearly useless as a temporary hold for large chunks of data.



SlidePad appears from the side of the screen for quick note-taking, which can also be a hindrance…

In short, the convenience of keyboard activation is all that *SlidePad* offers over *TextEdit*. And is the occasional saved mouse-click worth $20 in these credit-crunched times?

Barnaby Page

Sold out!

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Set up multiple displays
Find your files in a flash
Desktop speakers tried and tested

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Turn photos into watercolours
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Sold out!

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Expand shots in *Photoshop Elements*
Six word processing apps put to the test

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Six online printing services tested

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- Six Mac instant messengers tested

On the disc

Avenir 2.3.7: Word processor for authors
Creative MovieFX 1: Add effects to *Flash* projects
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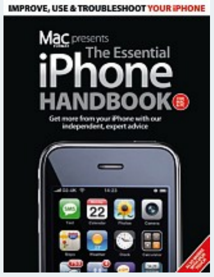

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*Contents subject to change

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Wednesday
29 April
2009

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iPhone apps

Christopher Phin picks out the very best software for the iPhone and the iPod touch

SNIPPETS

iPhone cheats at gambling

Hi Opt II
RUNNING COUNT
11
TRUE COUNT
2.2
Stealth Mode
Touch Above to Exit
2 3 6 7
+1
4 5
+2
10 J Q K
-2
New Deck

The app *Blackjack Card Counter* is getting attention in the US, thanks to the ban on using card-counting devices. Keeping track of which cards have been played, giving an advantage in probability, isn't illegal, but using external devices is, and could result in a six-year sentence and $10,000 fine.

Japan hates the iPhone? No.

Google
Search
Directions

Reports have speculated that the iPhone is a flop in Japan. This is partly ascribed to its dependence on a computer; many Japanese use mobiles as their computer, and don't own desktops or notebooks. MMS, not supported on the iPhone, is also hugely popular. Despite this, Apple is thought to have sold around 300,000 units.

iPHONE APP OF THE MONTH

Darkslide Premium

£2.39 Is that three billion images in your pocket…?

Even Apple seems to have admitted that Flickr is the best photo-sharing site on the web, and while its inclusion of native Flickr exporting in *iPhoto '09* might have had an adverse effect on the Flickr-exporting *iPhoto* plug-in of Scottish developer Fraser Spiers, it should mean nothing but good things for his iPhone app, *Darkslide*. Formerly called *Exposure*, and available as both a paid-for and free ad-supported version, *Darkslide* is, frankly, the daddy of iPhone Flickr apps.

At its most basic, it's a portal to your own Flickr pictures; it's not as convenient as the *Photos* app, simply because it has to pull the images down from Flickr's servers. It does a superb job of caching thumbnails, however, so even if you're on an EDGE signal it doesn't feel agonisingly slow. Tap an image once to load it full-size, or double-tap to bring up the info screen where you can add comments. From either screen, you can tap an icon to post a link to Twitter – *Twitterrific*, *Tweetie*, *TwitterFon* and *Safari* are all supported – email a link to the photo or open the relevant Flickr page in *Safari* on your iPhone.

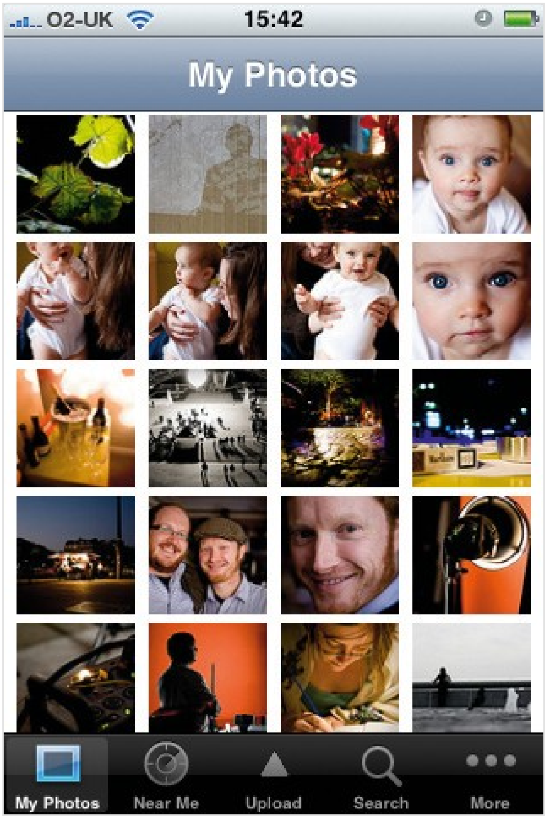
> "It does a superb job of caching thumbnails, even if you're on an EDGE signal it doesn't feel agonisingly slow"

It's much more than that, though; it gives you access to all Flickr features in a way that's optimised for the iPhone screen. It can use the iPhone's location services to show you those images on Flickr that are geotagged as nearby, and you can search the entire universe of Flickr photos.

Tap the **More** icon to browse your contacts' photos, look at featured photos, explore places, groups, sets, tags and favourites. You can comment on pictures, add them to favourites, and do all the forwarding stuff you can do to your own shots. There's no way to invite people to submit photos to groups, but we can cope with that.

You can also upload photos from your iPhone's photos database, complete with permissions, tags, descriptions and, if you want, embedded location information.

It is a superb, polished app, and while we'd like to see a way of authorising and toggling between multiple accounts, it's not something likely to bother many. Try the free version, but consider dropping a couple of quid on *Darkslide Premium* if you're anything other than the most occasional Flickr user.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"A perfect case study in how to make iPhone apps as front-ends to web services; every Flickr user should buy it."

WIRELESS AUDIO STREAMER

AirPhones

£2.99 Turn your iPhone into wireless headphones

Wireless headphones – those big over-the-ear cans that let you stream audio from any source without having cables strewn across a room – are handy for, say, letting one person watch TV while another gets on with some work in the same room. They can be pricey, however, so we're glad to see this £3 app that turns your iPhone or iPod touch into a wireless audio receiver. Just plug in some headphones or dock and your iPhone is a speaker set.

It needs a server app to run on an Intel Mac or, soon, a PowerPC Mac and PC, but once that's running they discover each other automatically. It claims to need a Core Duo, but we had it running on a 1.5GHz Intel Core Solo with only a little stuttering, when changing volume with the slider. There were occasional latency problems, too, but this was only noticeable when watching video.

O2-UK
15:37
AirPhones

VERDICT

★★★★½

"It's a tad harsh on your iPhone's battery, but adds a handy string to your iPhone's bow."

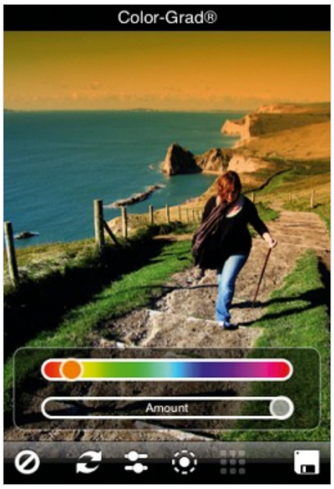
PHOTO ENHANCER

Photo fx

£1.79 A capable image editor with great results

We've been waiting a long time for a photo editor on the iPhone that's not just about adding moustaches to your mother-in-law, and it looks like we might have seen the first. *Photo fx* is no *Photoshop*-wannabe – you're limited to applying edits and effects globally, and you can't add more than one effect at a time without saving the first round of changes to a new image and then loading and manipulating this second version – but it's spectacular stuff nonetheless.

Effects are split into five sections, and you control how much each edit affects the image with an intuitive set of sliders and presets. They look pretty good, too, and while there's not much that can be done to completely fix the disappointing results from the iPhone's camera, we're happy to recommend it. It's particularly good for giving portrait shots a quick polish before sharing.



VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Of most use with portraits, but there's some fun stuff here too; a useful, cheap tool."

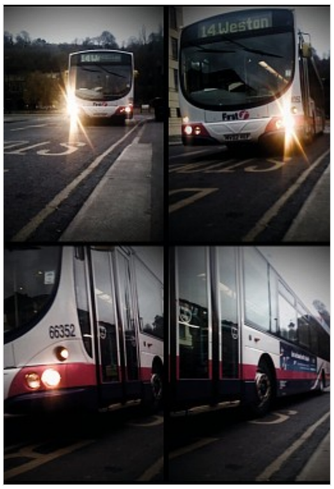
CAMERA APP

QuadCamera

£1.19 Embracing the iPhone's naff camera!

Long before the iPhone's camera was being criticised, enthusiasts exploited the low-fi effects from Holga and Lomo's cameras. All produced images with crazily saturated colours and prominent vignetting, and some models have four lenses, which take four sequential shots on one exposure.

Now, that ability and more has come to the iPhone, and it feels right at home. With *QuadCamera*, you set a delay between the shots, aim and press the trigger. The shots are taken and stitched together – you can choose between a 2x2, 4x1, 4x2 or 8x1 grid – then the vignette is applied to each one. You can apply a range of other effects – vivid, dull, greyscale, bright, high-contrast – as well, and the results go from being bad photographs to being little miniature works of art. The sequential firing adds a lovely element of time, too.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"The interface feels a little odd, but the results are charming."

FONT IDENTIFIER

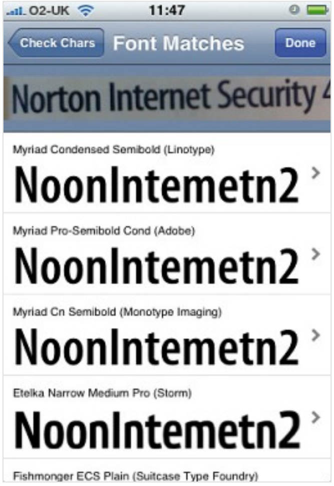
WhatTheFont

£FREE Serif? Sans? Humanist? We'll never know

Ever looked at a page and wondered what font has been used? *WhatTheFont* promises to end this dilemma once and for all, turning your iPhone into a handy font detective powered by MyFont's service of the same name.

The theory is sound, but a couple of things let it down. First, the back-end service itself isn't infallible, and because it doesn't – can't, surely – know about all the fonts in the world, you will sometimes slip it something it can't identify exactly. (In those circumstances, however, it does provide some close matches, might be enough for you.)

No, the main problem is – drumroll, please – the iPhone's camera. Never mind that it produces images that are soft, poorly exposed and noisy; the big stumbling block is that the lens can't focus closely enough to take usable images of anything under about 40pt. ●



Norton Internet Security

Myriad Condensed Semibold (Linotype)
NoonIntemetn2

Myriad Pro-Semibold Cond (Adobe)
NoonIntemetn2

Myriad Cn Semibold (Monotype Imaging)
NoonIntemetn2

Etelka Narrow Medium Pro (Storm)
NoonIntemetn2

Fishmonger ECS Plain (Suitcase Type Foundry)

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"A good attempt and a decent service, but the iPhone's camera lets it down."

Shareware

Our shareware guru, Craig Grannell looks at his pick of the month's best shareware

Mac FORMAT On the disc

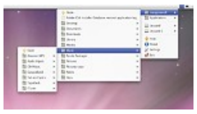
Find all reviewed titles on this issue's *MacFormat* disc

SNIPPETS

Atarimania

Although overshadowed in the UK by the ZX Spectrum and Commodore 64, Atari's 8-bit machines nonetheless had quite a following, and offered a selection of unique games (such as the depicted *Rainbow Warrior*) not found on other systems. Get a Mac-based retro hit by downloading the excellent *Atari800MacX* emulator from **www.atarimac.com.** Offering full cartridge, drive and machine support, *Atari800MacX* is one of the most capable emulators on the Mac.

Quick access



Although you can dump a shortcut to your Home folder in the Dock, enabling rapid access to your files, drive navigation also works well from the menu bar. If you don't own *Default Folder X*, and avoid 'haxies' (such as *FinderPop*), *Hawkscope* (**http://code.google.com/p/hawkscope/**) provides an alternative for exploring your drives. As a cross-platform Java project, it's not exactly Mac-like, but it proved stable enough while we were testing it.

SHAREWARE OF THE MONTH

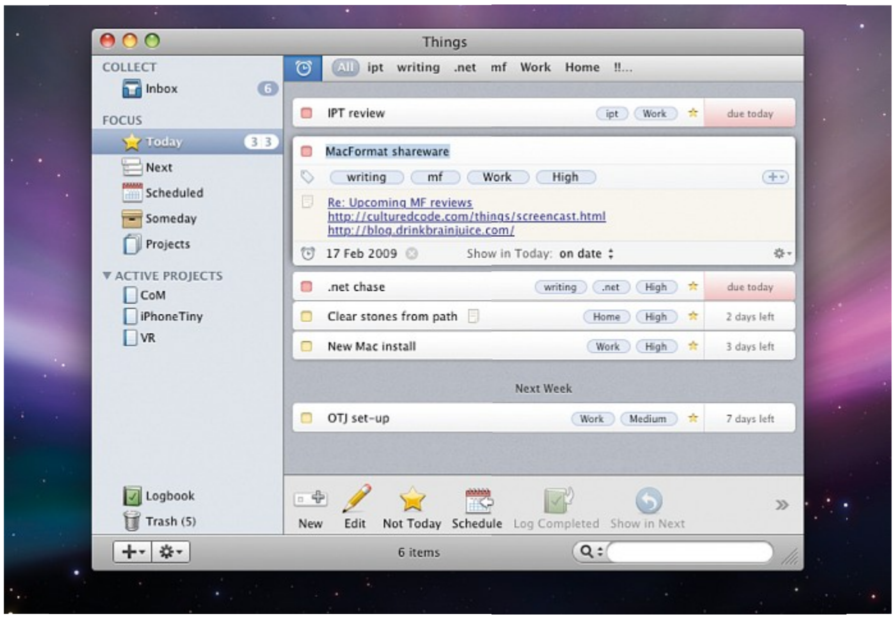
Things 1.0.4

$50 (£34) If Apple bundled a task manager with iLife, it'd look like this...

Things is what would happen if Apple took *iCal* behind the shed and shot it, and then used *iPhoto* for inspiring a new task management application. The interface is clean enough to lick, but it's not gloss for the sake of it – *Things* is carefully considered, providing a solid workflow for organising tasks.

As soon as you have installed and opened *Things* it helps you along, providing concise instructions in its initially empty sections, explaining in succinct fashion what each is intended for. You then start dumping to-dos in the inbox, which can be tagged, assigned deadlines, made into repeating events, and have notes added, including links to websites and emails. Usefully, tasks can be created in *Things* via the system-wide **Quick Entry** window, to avoid moving away from another application.

Defined tasks in *Things* are organised by dragging them to one of five **Focus** categories: **Today** for immediate tasks; **Next** for upcoming actions; **Scheduled** for repeating or future tasks; **Someday** for tasks without a deadline; and **Projects** for complex tasks with multiple steps. *Things'* **Focus** categories can be filtered by tag, search string or ordered by deadline.



IPT review ipt Work ☆ due today

MacFormat shareware

writing mf Work High

Re: Upcoming MF reviews
http://culturedcode.com/things/screencast.html
http://blog.drinkbrainjuice.com/

17 Feb 2009 Show in Today: on date

.net chase writing .net High ☆ due today

Clear stones from path Home High ☆ 2 days left

New Mac install Work High ☆ 3 days left

Next Week

OTJ set-up Work Medium ☆ 7 days left

> "Things is what would happen if Apple shot iCal, and then used iPhoto for inspiring a task management app"

In use, *Things* is a model Mac OS X application, with very few weak points. Synchronisation with *iCal* is a little hit and miss, and there's no option to remember view filters when you jump between various **Focus** categories, but other than those minor points the only real niggle we have regarding *Things* is the price. At around £35, it's certainly not cheap (and a copy of the iPhone app for purchasers would have been a nice touch), but if you're forever disorganised and can use *Things* in a business environment, it'll quickly pay for itself. For home users, it's probably overkill, though, unless you're flush.

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Cultured Code
URL www.culturedcode.com/things

VERDICT

★★★★½

"Pricey, but your money gets you an impressive, flexible, usable, very Apple-like task manager."

Blogo 1.2

$25 (£18) www.drinkbrainjuice.com/blogo

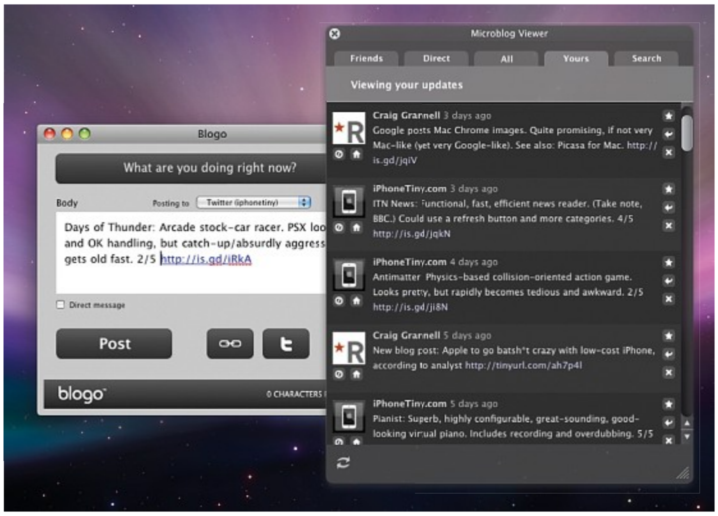
Blogging/microblogging app *Blogo* is like being slapped in the face with a giant haddock, and then falling into a comfy chair. To explain: initially, the interface bewilders, since it's starkly different from anything else you've experienced, but then, abruptly, you feel content as *Blogo*'s idiosyncrasies (there are many) are soon forgotten.

For posting on Twitter, *Blogo* shines, justifying its price tag. It works with multiple accounts and has a built-in viewer that betters anything we've seen on the Mac. For blogs, we've some reservations. *Blogo* simply wouldn't work with one of our *WordPress* installs, and the preview function never previewed on another. However, when it works, *Blogo* has much to offer, including image manipulation, strong browser-content integration and a fashionable full-screen mode.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A weirdo interface, but worth the price for Twitter fanatics and bloggers."



Days of Thunder: Arcade stock-car racer. PSX loo and OK handling, but catch-up/absurdly aggress gets old fast. 2/5 http://is.gd/iRkA

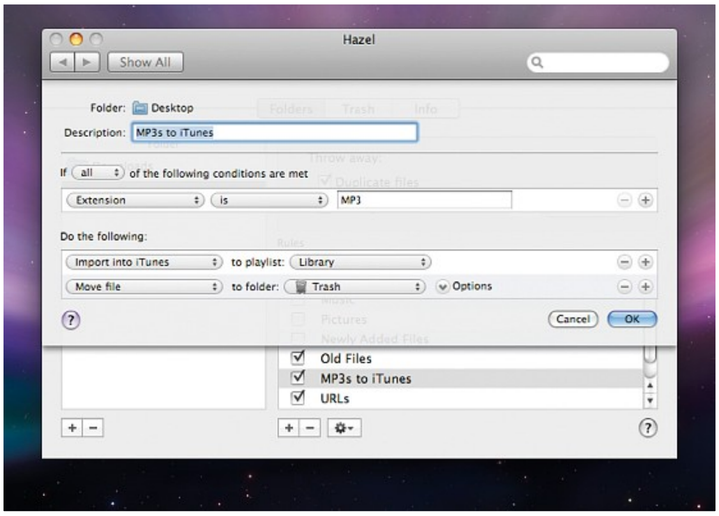
Craig Grannell 3 days ago
Google posts Mac Chrome images. Quite promising, if not very Mac-like (yet very Google-like). See also: Picasa for Mac. http://is.gd/jqiV

iPhoneTiny.com 3 days ago
ITN News: Functional, fast, efficient news reader. (Take note, BBC.) Could use a refresh button and more categories. 4/5 http://is.gd/jqkN

iPhoneTiny.com 4 days ago
Antimatter Physics-based collision-oriented action game. Looks pretty, but rapidly becomes tedious and awkward. 2/5 http://is.gd/ji8N

Craig Grannell 5 days ago
New blog post: Apple to go batsh*t crazy with low-cost iPhone, according to analyst http://tinyurl.com/ah7p4l

iPhoneTiny.com 5 days ago
Pianist: Superb, highly configurable, great-sounding, good-looking virtual piano. Includes recording and overdubbing. 5/5



Folder: Desktop
Description: MP3s to iTunes
If all of the following conditions are met
Extension is MP3
Do the following:
Import into iTunes to playlist: Library
Move file to folder: Trash
☑ Old Files
☑ MP3s to iTunes
☑ URLs

Hazel 2.2.4

$22 (£16) www.noodlesoft.com/hazel.php

A housekeeper for lazy (or – ahem – very busy) Mac users, *Hazel* offers flexible, automated file sorting and manipulation in *Finder*. Via a *System Preferences* pane, you define folders to watch and actions to be performed on specific file types. For example, downloaded MP3s can be loaded into *iTunes* and then trashed, and Desktop-based URL clippings shoved neatly into a folder. Rules are created in a manner similar to *Finder* smart folders, and *Hazel* can be set to work automatically (typically within seconds of files being 'dumped') or manually.

Hazel also cleans other nooks and crannies – it can look after your Trash, ensuring it never grows too large, and unearth support files for applications you delete, thereby letting you get on with more important tasks. For more, see the tutorial on page 64.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Perfect if you need a Mac housekeeper – and you only have to pay once!"

Flow 1.1.2

$29 (£20) www.extendmac.com/flow

It would take a lot to wrest the excellent *Transmit* from our cold, dead fingers, but relative newcomer FTP client *Flow* gets off on the right foot. The user interface is clean and refined, and feels great to use. Setting up new connections is a breeze, and the ability to copy an item's URL (rather than its path) is just one of the touches that shows the developer understands the application's audience.

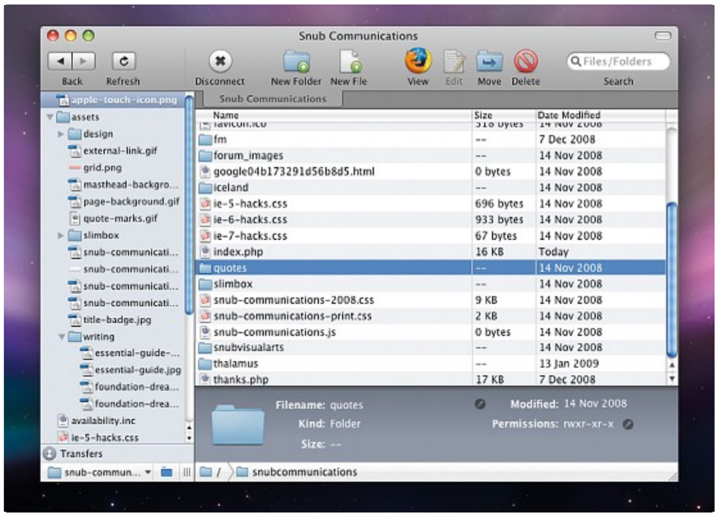
Unfortunately, in use, *Flow* fell short during our tests. Primarily, it just wasn't stable enough, regularly crashing when downloading multiple files via dragging. Also, the inability to define local paths for each bookmark is an irksome oversight.

We really wanted to like *Flow*, and it's definitely one to watch, but it's not quite there yet. Perhaps the next update will be more feature-rich. ●

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A fantastic UI, but currently lacks stability and a few important features."



apple-touch-icon.png
assets
  design
  external-link.gif
  grid.png
  masthead-backgro...
  page-background.gif
  quote-marks.gif
  slimbox
  snub-communicati...
  snub-communicati...
  snub-communicati...
  snub-communicati...
  title-badge.jpg
  writing
    essential-guide-...
    essential-guide.jpg
    foundation-drea...
    foundation-drea...
availability.inc
ie-5-hacks.css

Name	Size	Date Modified
fm	--	7 Dec 2008
forum_images	--	14 Nov 2008
google04b173291d56b8d5.html	0 bytes	14 Nov 2008
iceland	--	14 Nov 2008
ie-5-hacks.css	696 bytes	14 Nov 2008
ie-6-hacks.css	933 bytes	14 Nov 2008
ie-7-hacks.css	67 bytes	14 Nov 2008
index.php	16 KB	Today
quotes	--	14 Nov 2008
slimbox	--	14 Nov 2008
snub-communications-2008.css	9 KB	14 Nov 2008
snub-communications-print.css	2 KB	14 Nov 2008
snub-communications.js	0 bytes	14 Nov 2008
snubvisualarts	--	14 Nov 2008
thalamus	--	13 Jan 2009
thanks.php	17 KB	7 Dec 2008

Filename: quotes
Kind: Folder
Size: --
Modified: 14 Nov 2008
Permissions: rwxr-xr-x

snub-commun...
/ snubcommunications

STATUS
LAN
DISK
DS109j
NETGEAR
backup
ReadyNAS Duo
FUNCTION
BUFFALO

NAS DEVICES/iTUNES SERVERS

Music central

Words Christopher Phin **Photography** Philip Sowels, Joe Branston

We compare a selection of network-attached storage devices that double up as iTunes servers

Mac users are used to being in the minority. For years, manufacturers have created products that stream music to and from PCs, audio boxes and even televisions, but Mac users were denied the joys of UPnP or DLNA; people just didn't care about *iTunes*. But then the iPod and iPhone changed that. Suddenly millions of people – both on the Mac and running Windows – had to install *iTunes* just to manage their music players, and there was a fresh, new impetus to develop solutions for this market. Now most network-attached storage (NAS) devices can act as *iTunes* servers. You plug it into your router – a few use WiFi, but none that we're testing here – and then dump a load of music files into a folder on it. It then appears as a shared library in *iTunes*' **Source** pane, so Mac and PC *iTunes* users can connect to it at the same time, and stream music to their desktops. It's a great way of offloading and centralising music in a way that everyone at home – or in the office – can enjoy. Here are six that have endured our testing regime.

> "Suddenly millions of people – on Macs and running Windows – had to install iTunes just to manage their music…"

►

ON TEST

Buffalo LinkStation Live £133

Western Digital My Book World Edition £140

Iomega Home Media Network £110

LaCie Internet Space 500GB £115

Netgear ReadyNAS Duo 500GB £277

Synology Disk Station DS109j (enclosure) £125

Though it lacks advanced features, Iomega's NAS is wonderfully easy to configure.

TEST ONE

Setting up

Get ready to go, but how easy will it be?

NAS devices used to be complex things built by and for system administrators who were used to configuring users and groups. The models here are more consumer-focussed, although the Buffalo and Netgear are in the older tradition. Both make an attempt at simplifying the process – they advertise themselves using Apple's zero-config networking protocol, *Bonjour*, so you don't have to know the IP address of the *iTunes* servers, or use their discovery utilities – but configuration is still complex.

Synology gets a black mark; not because you have to buy and fit the drive yourself – the enclosure is sold empty – but because you have to load the embedded software by hand. Western Digital had a glitch: it suggests discovering the drive in *Safari* with *Bonjour*, but we couldn't get *Safari 3* or *4* to let us log in, and had to go via *Firefox*. LaCie's configuration is odd, going via the net, but it works fine. The stand-out performer was Iomega. Its set up is great; discover the drive with *Bonjour*, or use the menubar extra that directs you to configure the Home Media Network Hard Drive using the clean, pages of its embedded server.

RESULTS

Buffalo LinkStation Live	★★★☆☆
Iomega Home Media Network	★★★★★
LaCie Internet Space 500GB	★★★☆☆
Netgear ReadyNAS Duo 500GB	★★☆☆☆
Synology Disk Station DS109j	★☆☆☆☆
Western Digital My Book	★★★☆☆

TEST TWO

Ease of use

Finding your way around the devices

The drive from Iomega again impresses with its ease of use. It works beautifully. Veteran admins can get their hands dirty with users and permissions if they like, but beginners can just use it out of the box; the system of lit buttons on the web interface to turn on *iTunes* and DLNA streaming for specific folders is great. Western Digital doesn't disappoint either. Despite our frustration with its reluctance to log in using *Safari*, once you're in, the interface is nice and clear. It defaults to an easy mode, but if you're confident you can go advanced and tweak things a little more. The sheer complexity and richness of the offerings from Buffalo and Netgear count against them in this category; even after days of use, we were still hard-pushed to remember where a particular setting was, and they don't try to shield inexperienced users from the full complexity of network-attached storage. Once you get past the initial set-up with the Synology Disk Station DS109j, it's easy to use, even though you're presented with a daunting list of options. The LaCie gets marked down because the settings aren't kept together and the net-based log-in can be confusing.

RESULTS

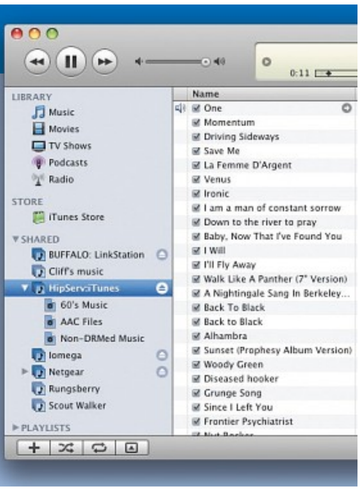
Buffalo LinkStation Live	★★★☆☆
Iomega Home Media Network	★★★★★
LaCie Internet Space 500GB	★★★½☆
Netgear ReadyNAS Duo 500GB	★★★☆☆
Synology Disk Station DS109j	★★★★☆
Western Digital My Book	★★★★½

WD's My Book World Edition doesn't play nice with *Safari*.

THE PROBLEM WITH SHARED LIBRARIES

Using a shared library in this way sounds ideal. You buy a relatively cheap network hard disk capable of holding hundreds of gigabytes of music, and dump everything onto it. The entire family – or small office – can then simply stream the music from it, and even add their own files to the pot. It's not without its problems, however. One of the most important is that (with all the drives we have here, anyway) you can't create playlists. Sure, you can browse by album, artist and genre, but you can't build a hand-picked selection of tracks to play to suit your mood. A couple let you create smart playlists – building groups of songs automatically based on criteria you choose, such as asking the system to group together all songs by U2 that you've added before 2009 – but that's it. This is not only limiting, but also depends on how complete the metadata is for the tracks (the names of songs, date of release, composer details and the like) and you can't create or edit this information on the tracks directly when they appear on the shared library in *iTunes*; you'd have to edit the MP3 and AAC files on the server with a third-party app. All of which you might be able to cope with, but there's one other problem that might be a deal-breaker if you're looking to use an *iTunes* server as the main repository of music: you can't use them as a source library to fill an iPod or iPhone.

Shared libraries like those that reside on an *iTunes* server are self-contained entities, and *iTunes* refuses to let you use them for syncing. In theory, you could instead create your library on a NAS's regular folder structure and then point *iTunes* towards that – remember that if you hold down the ⌥ key as you launch *iTunes*, it will ask you to choose which library you want to use, and offer you the chance of creating a new one – but then you'd miss out on the convenience of having your music stored centrally on a device that lots of users can access without having to boot a computer. Consider having a small library on your Mac, and using an *iTunes* server on your home network as well.



Name
☑ One
☑ Momentum
☑ Driving Sideways
☑ Save Me
☑ La Femme D'Argent
☑ Venus
☑ Ironic
☑ I am a man of constant sorrow
☑ Down to the river to pray
☑ Baby, Now That I've Found You
☑ I Will
☑ I'll Fly Away
☑ Walk Like A Panther (7" Version)
☑ A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley…
☑ Back To Black
☑ Back to Black
☑ Alhambra
☑ Sunset (Prophesy Album Version)
☑ Woody Green
☑ Diseased hooker
☑ Grunge Song
☑ Since I Left You
☑ Frontier Psychiatrist

The Buffalo LinkStation Live may not be the prettiest NAS, but it's packed with features.

TEST THREE

iTunes features

Which are the best devices for your music library?

The models from Buffalo, Iomega and Western Digital offer basic *iTunes* server features; simply drop a bunch of audio files onto a folder. All will happily play FairPlay DRM-protected tracks, provided you authorise the client computers. But that's it; you can't create playlists. Indeed, none of the drives here let you create manual playlists that let you drag in whatever tracks you want to. The models from Netgear and Synology, however, do let you create smart playlists. They're the same basic idea as **Smart Playlists** in *iTunes*; rather than manually adding individual tracks or groups of tracks, you define certain criteria that you want the system to match, then let it build it dynamically. You could, for example, create a playlist that lists all the rock tracks that you've added this year. Synology's system is the friendliest – and it even allows you to set a password for the shared library – but the options are a little limited and adding any new playlists disconnects users. The Firefly server that Netgear uses is ungainly, but powerful. The model from LaCie ships with some smart playlists already – **60's Music**, **AAC Files**, and **Non-DRMed Music** – but you can't create your own.

RESULTS

Buffalo LinkStation Live	★★★☆☆
Iomega Home Media Network	★★★☆☆
LaCie Internet Space 500GB	★★★☆☆
Netgear ReadyNAS Duo 500GB	★★★★★
Synology Disk Station DS109j	★★★★☆
Western Digital My Book	★★★☆☆

TEST FOUR

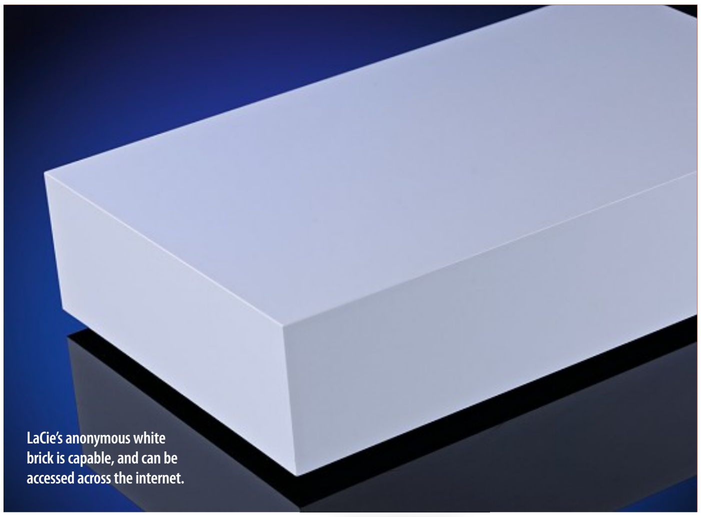
Other features

What else are these clever chaps capable of?

The models from Buffalo and LaCie allow you to access the files stored on them from any computer connected to the internet. Only your home router and the NAS itself has to be switched on; you can then log into them using just a web browser, which is great if you've left an important file at home. The My Book World Edition promises this too, but it requires a Windows-only client application to work. We like the approach Netgear has taken. The ReadyNAS Duo ships with space for two drives, but a maximum of only one is fitted. The idea is that if you'd like, you can add a second drive yourself at any time for continuous mirrored backup – even if the main drive fails, your data is safe. The ReadyNAS is packed with features, and so long as you're reasonably savvy, you can get a lot out of it. Similarly, the Buffalo LinkStation Live and Synology are very feature-rich, offering BitTorrent clients – as does the ReadyNAS – and more. The Disk Station DS109j even supports crazy stuff such as the ability to control – and so monitor – surveillance cameras. The other models are more focussed on basic, simple media streaming and file serving.

RESULTS

Buffalo LinkStation Live	★★★★⯪
Iomega Home Media Network	★★☆☆☆
LaCie Internet Space 500GB	★★★☆☆
Netgear ReadyNAS Duo 500GB	★★★★★
Synology Disk Station DS109j	★★★★★
Western Digital My Book	★★☆☆☆



LaCie's anonymous white brick is capable, and can be accessed across the internet.

NETWORKING INTERFACES

The basic rule of thumb when calculating how fast data will travel over a network is: it will only ever be as quick as the slowest device on the network. If you connect three devices to an 802.11n router, for example, but one of those uses the older, slower 802.11g standard, the entire network will be throttled to the speed of 802.11g, which has a theoretical maximum of 54Mb/sec – though you'll never, practically, actually achieve even this speed.

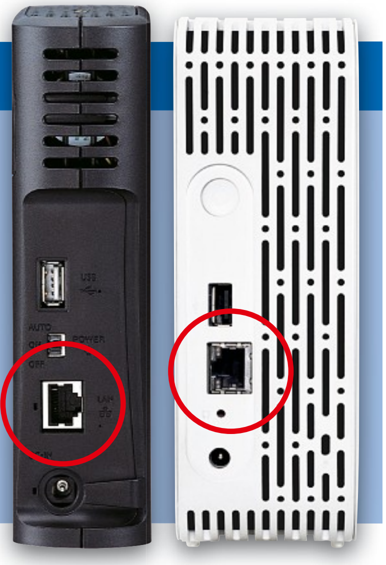
If you've been paying attention to Apple's announcements, you'll have noticed that its AirPort Extreme and Time Capsule base stations have two wireless channels, one that handles 802.11n, and one for 802.11g, so both can run at their maximum speeds; this is unusual, however, as most consumer routers or access points only have one wireless channel.

The rule of thumb applies to wired connections too. If you have two devices that boast the fastest wired connection – known as 1000BASE-T or Gigabit Ethernet, because it can theoretically transfer a thousand million bits of information per second – but the router between the two only has 10/100BASE-T, you won't be able to transfer at Gigabit speeds.

Put it all together, and it means that even if your home wireless router and the NAS you choose have Gigabit Ethernet ports, if you're connecting to the NAS over 802.11g WiFi, you might struggle to stream, say, video, even if it's high bit-rate SD, never mind HD content.

There is good news, however. The first is that most equipment you buy these days has the fastest available connection; Gigabit Ethernet for wired connections, and 802.11n for wireless, even though 'n' isn't yet fully ratified.

Even better, for our purposes here even a positively ancient 802.11b connection would suffice. Streaming music usually requires, at most, a couple of hundred kilobits per second, and even 802.11b can theoretically handle sixty times that, so unless your network is utterly saturated, the *iTunes* servers will be able to provide an uninterrupted stream of music.



The serious ReadyNAS Duo can accept a second drive, for continuous, easy backup.

TEST FIVE

Performance

Which machine in the line-up will perform best?

We tested performance using the read/write routines in Helios LanTest; the source computer and test devices were attached with Gigabit Ethernet ports, but we deliberately tested them on a busy network with many other nodes, in order to get a realistic real-world figure for how well they performed. We connected each using Apple Filing Protocol (AFP) if it was supported – which should in theory give better performance – or SMB/CIFS if AFP wasn't available. Note that because the Synology Disk Station DS109j comes without a drive, its figures may be affected by the speed of the drive; it took exception to the 1TB Western Digital drive we tried, so it was tested with a 250GB Western Digital Caviar drive, model WD2500JS, which is a SATA-II unit running at 7200rpm. Surprisingly, file transfer speeds on all the devices were broadly similar (the results are shown on p109). The drive from Iomega was a little slower at writing files – an average of 4.38MB/sec – than the rest, though the worst result was Synology at 2.29MB/sec. Western Digital's drive did well on both read and write, though if you just want to stream music, all are more than adequate.

RESULTS

Buffalo LinkStation Live	★★★★☆
Iomega Home Media Network	★★★☆☆
LaCie Internet Space 500GB	★★★★☆
Netgear ReadyNAS Duo 500GB	★★★★☆
Synology Disk Station DS109j	★★☆☆☆
Western Digital My Book	★★★★★

TEST SIX

Value for money

Is it worth it? We look at what you get for your bucks

We're not going to pretend that the Netgear's much-higher price tag isn't a concern – it's two and a half times the price of the cheapest unit here – but you do get a lot of bang for your buck, so we think it's actually reasonably good value for money; the integrated backup option is well worthwhile. The cheapest drive here, Iomega's Home Media Network Hard Drive, is actually relatively poor value for money. Though we love its easy set-up and trouble-free operation, it's very basic; even the relatively simple LaCie Internet Space represents better value for money. At only a fiver more, its ability to access files across the internet may not be a core concern if all you're looking for is a straight *iTunes* server, but it's a nice added extra. The £140 Western Digital My Book World Edition might look like an expensive unit, but you have to remember that it has double the storage of the others here; WD doesn't make a smaller version, though you should note that the terabyte versions of the others here don't cost much more than the 500GB versions we've tested. Though we love the Synology's features, it's an expensive proposition once you've added a hard disk as well.

RESULTS

Buffalo LinkStation Live	★★★☆☆
Iomega Home Media Network	★★★☆☆
LaCie Internet Space 500GB	★★★★☆
Netgear ReadyNAS Duo 500GB	★★★⯪☆
Synology Disk Station DS109j	★★★☆☆
Western Digital My Book	★★★★☆

Though its set-up process is far from simple, there's little the DS109j isn't able to do.

AND THE WINNER IS | Iomega Home Media Network Hard Drive 500GB

What it all comes down to is what you actually need from a network-attached storage device. Some are stuffed with features, offer highly granular control over access, and are wildly expandable. Others are simple and focussed. Plus, here, we're looking specifically at their abilities as *iTunes* servers, rather than as pure network attached storage.

The NAS that offers the very richest *iTunes* experience is the £277 Netgear behemoth; it lets you create smart playlists with loads of fine-grained control, though that depends on your having good, complete metadata associated with each of your tracks, and you can't add this to the tracks directly through *iTunes* once they're on the shared library. It is, however, complex and expensive, so it doesn't get the final nod. The next best is the NAS enclosure from Synology. It too lets you create smart playlists, though there are considerably fewer variables that you can use than the ReadyNAS Duo boasts. Still, it's pricey and fiddly to set up, and its huge feature list can make it difficult to track down and configure specific tasks.

The winner, however, is Iomega's Home Media Network Hard Drive. It was the simplest to set up and configure, and the software engineers have done a sterling job in creating an interface that is both elegant and calm, and yet does allow relatively complex control over user permissions if you opt for setting them up. Its simplicity might disappoint some – you can't create playlists, so if that's a killer feature for you, go for the Synology – but its smart Apple-like design and stress-free set-up means it gets our ultimate recommendation. The Iomega is an excellent basic network drive for the home, and it happily played all the music we threw at it from its *iTunes* server.

FINAL VERDICT

★★★★☆

"There are devices here that are richer and that perform better, but this is a capable, easy-to-use and friendly device."

Mac FORMAT Winner

NAS DEVICES/iTUNES SERVERS

Buffalo LinkStation Live with BitTorrent

★★★☆☆

Western Digital My Book World Edition

★★★★☆

Mac FORMAT Winner

Iomega Home Media Network Hard Drive

★★★★☆

SPECIFICATIONS

Price	£133	£140	£110
Capacity	500GB	1TB	500GB
Interfaces	1x Gigabit Ethernet, 2x USB 2.0	1x Gigabit Ethernet, 1x USB 2.0	1x Gigabit Ethernet, 1x USB 2.0
AFP	Yes	Yes	Yes
SMB/CIFS	Yes	Yes	Yes
FTP	Yes	Yes	No
DNLA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Easy access over internet	Yes	Yes (Windows clients only)	No
Read speed* (MB/sec)	7.72	9.27	8.53
Write speed*	6.89	8.08	4.38
Dimensions (mm)	61x176x188	173x147x58	199x125x40
Weight (kg)	1.8	2.4	1.1

NAS DEVICES/iTUNES SERVERS

LaCie Internet Space 500GB

★★★½☆

Netgear ReadyNAS Duo 500GB

★★★★☆

Synology Disk Station DS109j

★★★½☆

SPECIFICATIONS

Price	£115	£277	£125
Capacity	500GB	500GB	Enclosure only
Interfaces	1x Gigabit Ethernet, 1x USB 2.0	1x Gigabit Ethernet, 3x USB 2.0, extra SATA	1x Gigabit Ethernet, 1x USB 2.0
AFP	No	Yes	Yes
SMB/CIFS	Yes	Yes	Yes
FTP	Yes	Yes	Yes
DNLA	Yes	Yes	No (UPnP supported)
Easy access over internet	Yes	No	No
Read speed * (MB/sec)	8.84	8.78	7.1
Write speed*	8	7.97	2.29
Dimensions (mm)	117x193x45	142x101x222	160x218x63
Weight (kg)	0.9	2.7	0.8 (enclosure only)

*** Tests performed on a busy network using Helios LanTest; average of ten separate tests**

★★★★★ Buyers' guide

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How to buy a Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? Follow our advice and make the right choice

There have been lots of changes to Apple's hardware line-up this month. All Apple desktops have been updated and the 15-inch MacBook Pro has also had a slight speed boost. Apple's entry-level Mac, the Mac mini, has had a long overdue upgrade, with more power, hard drive space and RAM. You now have the choice of a 120GB or 320GB hard drive with 1GB or 2GB RAM respectively. With prices starting from £499, it's a great Mac to switch to from a PC. You will need to buy a monitor, keyboard and mouse, or you could use your old PC's ones!

The stylish, all-in-one iMac has also received an update. With updated processor speeds, RAM upgrades and more hard drive space up to 1TB, they're perfect for using the great *iLife* apps or graphic design – and there's plenty of space to save your creative masterpieces. And not to be left out, the Mac Pro now comes as either Quad-Core or 8-Core, offering the most powerful Mac to date. These do come at a price, though, from £1,899, but you get what you pay for. There's nothing this Mac can't cope with.

Desktop Macs are more powerful, but if you need to use your Mac on the go, Apple's laptops won't leave you disappointed. Just turn the page to see the complete range of Macs that are available.

DID YOU KNOW?
Apple's new glass Multi-Touch trackpad lets you pinch, rotate and swipe, through photos in *iPhoto*

Making your mind up

All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, meaning that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful. So now you need to choose

> "All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, meaning that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful"

whether you need a laptop or a desktop. If you work on the move then you need a laptop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The MacBook starts at £719 with the white 13-inch MacBook, and is great for less intensive work, such as the *iLife* apps. The aluminium 13-inch MacBook (starting at £929) has the same screen size but has a glossy screen (which some people prefer), a bigger hard drive and faster memory. The 2.4GHz model (at £1,125) has an even bigger hard drive (250GB) and an illuminated keyboard, so when the ambient light dims, the keys light up.

As its name suggests, the MacBook Pro, starting at £1,369, is for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs, as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. The 2.66GHz 17-inch version now lasts up to eight hours on one single battery charge, so it's even better for working on the move than ever before. The MacBook Pro is great for designers needing that extra power and storage space. Finally, the thin and light MacBook Air lacks ports and a built-in DVD drive, but it's ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. While there is no CD/DVD drive included, an external SuperDrive will cost £64.

> "The 2.66GHz 17-inch MacBook Pro lasts up to eight hours on one charge, so it's even better for working on the move than ever before"

The MacBook Pro is available in two 15-inch configurations with either 2.4 or 2.66GHz processors, and there's a 17-inch 2.66GHz version, too. You can upgrade the 2.66GHz Pro to 2.93GHz for an extra £206. The MacBook and MacBook Air only come with 13-inch screens.

DID YOU KNOW?

Apple's new aluminium MacBooks lack a FireWire port, but you still get one on the cheaper £719 white MacBook

Mac desktops

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £499 you get a 2.0GHz machine with 1GB RAM and 120GB hard drive, or a 2.0GHz with 2GB RAM and 320GB hard drive for £649. You will need to provide a monitor, keyboard and mouse, though.

The iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.93GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz with a 1TB hard drive, from £949. These all-in-ones almost rival a Mac Pro, although for really intensive work you will need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a basic spec of one Quad-Core 2.66GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,899, but with the option of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune. If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Displays are ideal, with the 30-inch HD display at £1,173 or the 24-inch LED display at £635.

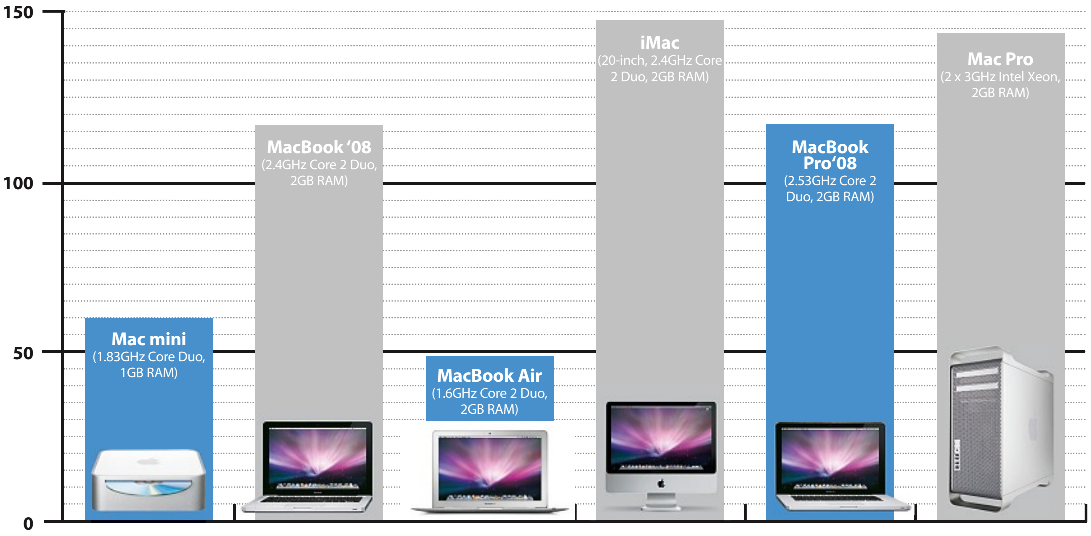
All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the new *iLife '09* suite. ●

BENCHMARKS | Which Mac is fastest?

We've used Xbench (www.xbench.com) to compare Apple's latest Macs. We've taken its overall score on each Mac as a rough guide to its overall system performance and speed. Please remember that this result is only an indication of the system's overall performance, and doesn't take into account some aspects, such as the improved 3D graphics capabilities of the new aluminium MacBook and the even better 3D graphics performance of the new MacBook Pro.

THE RESULTS (Xbench)

Mac mini	67
MacBook	127.49
MacBook Air	49.68
iMac	146
MacBook Pro	129.1
Mac Pro	140.45



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iMac

Updated March 2009

20-inch 2.66GHz

£949

- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 20-inch glossy widescreen (1,680x1,050 pixels)
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 320GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory
- 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800
- Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

⊕ **Good spec for money**
⊖ **Bigger HD would be nice**

24-inch 2.66GHz

£1,199

- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 640GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory
- 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800
- Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

⊕ **Whopping 4GB memory**
⊖ **Wired mouse and keyboard**

24-inch 2.93GHz

£1,499

- 2.93GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 640GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 256MB of GDDR3 memory
- 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800
- Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

⊕ **Great RAM and HD**
⊖ **Would like more FireWire ports**

24-inch 3.06GHz

£1,799

- 3.06GHz Intel core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce GT 130 with 512MB of GDDR3 memory
- 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800
- Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

⊕ **Massive 1TB hard drive**
⊖ **Who needs a 1TB HD?**

MacBook Pro

Updated March 2009

15-inch 2.4GHz

£1,369

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600M GT with 256MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium unibody
- OS X Leopard and *iLife '09*
- 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0 ports

⊕ **Great new aluminium body**
⊖ **Screen still small**

15-inch 2.66GHz

£1,712

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600 GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium unibody
- OS X Leopard and *iLife '09*
- 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0 ports

⊕ **More power!**
⊖ **Upgrade options could cost**

17-inch 2.66GHz

£1,949

- 17-inch hi-resolution glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 6MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 320GB 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600 GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium body
- OS X Leopard and *iLife '09*
- 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0 ports

⊕ **8 hours wireless productivity**
⊖ **Puts a big dent in the wallet**

Mac Pro

Updated March 2009

Quad-Core

£1,899

2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon

3GB RAM (3x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM)

NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output

640GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s

18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots

5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports

Apple keyboard and Mighty Mouse

⊕ **Great value for money**

⊖ **Could spend loads upgrading**

8-Core

£2,499

2x 2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon

6GB RAM (6x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM)

NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output

640GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s

18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots

5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports

Apple keyboard and Mighty Mouse

⊕ **Real powerhorse**

⊖ **Expensive**

Mac mini

Updated March 2009

2.0GHz 120GB

£499

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

1GB RAM (1x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)

120GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive

3MB shared L2 cache

NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 128MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

AirPort Extreme (802.11n)

1x FireWire 800 port; 5x USB 2.0

Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '09* and Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

⊕ **Lots of ports & better graphics**

⊖ **Needs more RAM**

2.0GHz 320GB

£649

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)

320GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive

3MB shared L2 cache

NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

AirPort Extreme (802.11n)

1x FireWire 800 port; 5x USB 2.0

Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '09* and Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

⊕ **Improved hard drive space**

⊖ **No keyboard, mouse, monitor**

MacBook Air

Updated October 2008

13-inch 1.6GHz

£1,271

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels

1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor

2GB DDR3 SDRAM

120GB 4,200-rpm SATA hard drive

Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR

NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM

Mac OS X Leopard

1x USB 2.0 port

Micro DVI port

MagSafe power adaptor

⊕ **Thintastic!**

⊖ **SuperDrive is an extra £65**

13-inch 1.86GHz

£1,761

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels

1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor

2GB DDR3 SDRAM

128GB solid-state drive

Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR

NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM

Mac OS X Leopard

1x USB 2.0 port

Micro DVI port

MagSafe power adaptor

⊕ **Great lower price!**

⊖ **Still needs extras**

MacBook

Updated January 2009

13-inch white 2.0GHz

£719

13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

3MB shared L2 cache

2GB RAM (2x DDR2 SDRAM)

120GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm

8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM

Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0

OS X 10.5 Leopard

⊕ **Great value, has FireWire port**

⊖ **Looks out of date**

13-inch 2.0GHz

£929

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

3MB shared L2 cache

2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)

160GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm

8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM

Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0

OS X 10.5 Leopard

⊕ **Stunning new look**

⊖ **No FireWire port**

13-inch 2.4GHz

£1,125

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels

2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

3MB shared L2 cache

2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)

250GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm

SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM

Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0

OS X 10.5 Leopard

⊕ **Illuminated keyboard**

⊖ **MacBook Pro only £250 more**

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU
Now Playing
Beautiful
Akon
3:40
-1:32
MENU

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find *your* ideal model

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are; there is no 'best' model. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your *iTunes* window when you're clicked on Library – you can probably get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices.

While most of us regularly listen to only a fraction of our music – something facilitated by the use of Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The new 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the 1GB iPod shuffle. Also available is a new 4GB shuffle, in black or silver, which introduces the VoiceOver technology. This enables the iPod to tell you what song is playing, who's performing it and what your playlist is called.

The best compromise is the iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5-inch screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and detailed, and the 8GB and 16GB capacities are sufficient. The choice of colour is vast, and there's a nano for everyone.

The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone. ●

DID YOU KNOW?
The various iPod flavours represent almost three-quarters of the market; Microsoft's Zune has 2.6%

> "The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use"

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iPod classic

Updated September 2008

iPod classic 120GB

£175

- Up to 30,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 150 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod shuffle

Updated March 2009

iPod shuffle 4GB

£59

- Up to 1,000 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver and black
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

iPod shuffle 1GB

£31

- Up to 240 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
- No screen
- Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
- 27.3x41.2x10.5mm
- 15.6g

iPod touch

Updated September 2008

iPod touch 8GB

£165

Up to 1,750 songs
Up to 10,000 photos
Up to 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 16GB

£214

Up to 3,500 songs
Up to 20,000 photos
Up to 20 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 32GB

£283

Up to 7,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 40 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod nano

Updated September 2008

iPod nano 8GB

£107

Up to 2,000 songs
Up to 7,000 photos
Up to 8 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£146

Up to 4,000 songs
Up to 14,000 photos
Up to 16 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

AT&T 3G
9:42 AM
Text
Calendar
Photos
Camera
YouTube
Stocks
Maps
Weather
Clock
Calculator
Notes
Settings
iTunes
App Store
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod

iPhone 3G

Updated June 2008

iPhone 3G 8GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 1,750 songs, 10,000 photos, or 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g

iPhone 3G 16GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 3,500 songs, 20,000 photos, or 20 hours of video
Available in black or white
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g

iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH: HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

Of course, the iPhone is also a fantastic iPod – Steve Jobs called it the best iPod Apple has ever made. At 8GB, 16GB and 32GB, it's not particularly capacious, which is annoying as the glorious 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. So far, so identical to the iPod touch, but there are some key differences .

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make calls. Fair enough, you might think, but remember that this also means that, unlike with the iPhone, iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff (literally) is that while an iPhone will cost you at least £30 a month for 18 months, you only need to pay for the iPod touch itself.

You do miss out on some stuff – the touch lacks the iPhone's (admittedly pretty crappy) camera, though the second generation model does at least have a low-powered speaker and physical volume controls, both of which it originally lacked.

The updated iPhone 3G is not only faster than the original – twice as quick in Apple's testing – but it also includes proper GPS; the iPod touch can only triangulate from WiFi nodes.

Finally, iPod touch owners usually have to pay for software upgrades, too, something iPhones get for free.

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Apple Airport Extreme	£120	£138.00
Apple Airport Express	£55	£63.25
NetGear DG834PN wireless router	£69	£79.35
NetGear Powerline XE102	£26	£29.90
Apple Time Capsule 500GB	£199	£228.85
LaCie Little Disk 320GB	£59	£67.85
Western Digital MyBook Essential 1TB	£95	£109.25
Iomega Iomega MiniMax 500GB	£65	£74.75
LaCie 500GB Quadra (quad interface)	£99	£113.85
LaCie Mobile Rugged 500GB USB 2	£95	£109.25
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KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Keyboard ★★★★★

ISSUE 187

Price: £27
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53747
Key specs: 2x USB 2.0 ports; slimline at 11x1x33cm; requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

+ Superslim; faster USB ports; easy to keep clean; comfortable to use; sleek design
− May prefer wireless version that's also available

"The Apple keyboard is sleek, ergonomic and now has extra keys. Once you've tried this you'll never go back to your old keyboard."

★★★★★

Apple Wireless Keyboard

Price: £45 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Bluetooth; Exposé/Dashboard shortcuts; thin

+ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
− Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

★★★★★

Microsoft Mobile Memory Mouse 8000

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/217353
Key specs: Wireless; 1GB memory; RF and Bluetooth

+ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB storage
− Odd acceleration behaviour

PRINTERS

Canon PIXMA iP100 ★★★★★

ISSUE 199

Price: £108
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/414281
Key specs: 9,600x2,400dpi resolution; 2kg; 322x185x61.7mm; USB 2.0, Bluetooth, PictBridge interfaces; borderless printing (A4, 13x18cm, 10x15cm, credit card)

+ Compact; excellent results; strong build
− Lack of camera card slots

"A rather pricey entry from Canon, but one that also offers excellent quality prints for photos and documents."

★★★★★

HP Photosmart A618

Price: £81 **Reviewed:** Issue 183
Full review: www.techradar.com/58073
Key specs: Three-colour inkjet; 4,800x1,200dpi

+ Good price; great prints; built-in bluetooth
− Bit slow

★★★★½

Canon PIXMA iP450

Price: £80 **Reviewed:** Issue 202 (Christmas gift guide)
Full review: www.techradar.com/58866
Key specs: 9,600x2,400dpi; duplex option

+ Fast printer; good, vibrant results
− Nothing

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display ★★★★★

ISSUE 152

Price: From £391
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225702
Key specs: Size: 20-inch or 30-inch screen, Native resolution: 1,920x1,200, Colours: 16.7million colours, Video: DVI display, USB ports: 2, FireWire 400 ports: 2, VESA mount compatible

+ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
− No height adjustment

"Apple has really pulled off a trick with its range of Cinema Displays. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are all top-notch."

★★★★★

Sharp Aquos LC32X20E

Price: £532 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Full review: www.techradar.com/256594
Key specs: 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res

+ Great Mac and TV picture quality; impressive specs
− Need a lot of room to house it!

★★★½☆

Apple 24-inch LED Cinema Display

Price: £635 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500220
Key specs: 24 inches; 1,920x1,200 pixels

+ Oozes quality all round
− Only works with new MacBook family

SCANNERS/ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP620 ★★★★½

ISSUE 202

Price: £108
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/477048
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, five-ink printing); scanner (2,400x4,800spi optical scanning); holds 150 sheets in rear tray and 150 in casette

+ Great print quality; easy to use; good value for money
− WiFi needs to be set up over USB

"The mix of stellar print quality and intelligent design decisions means that the Canon MP620 all-in-one is a great buy."

★★★★★

Canon PIXMA MP610

Price: £87 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
Full review: www.techradar.com/203068
Key specs: Printer/scanner/copier; 2,400x9,600dpi

+ Lots of features; easy to use; cheap to run
− Slow duplex printing

★★★★½

Canon PIXMA MX700

Price: £124 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218276
Key specs: Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR

+ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
− No duplex

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Fujifilm FinePix F50fd ★★★★★

ISSUE 197

Price: £113

Web: www.fujifilm.co.uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/71926

Key specs: 12 megapixels; 35-1-5mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation; 25MB internal memory; 100-6,400 ISO range

+ Great value for money; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good

− Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

"This camera is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The Fujifilm FinePix F50fd is £138 well spent."

Canon EOS 40D

★★★★★

Price: £560 **Reviewed:** Issue 188

Full review: www.techradar.com/69985

Key specs: 10.1MP; Digic III and 14-bit processing

+ Lots of megapixels; wider ISO range; useful extras

− Some idiosyncratic functions

Pentax Optio M50

★★★★½

Price: £82 **Reviewed:** Issue 197

Full review: www.techradar.com/414376

Key specs: 8MP; 5x optical/5.2x digital zoom

+ Easy to use; great picture quality; good price

− Slow lens; not great in low-light conditions

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C ★★★★½

ISSUE 202

Price: £439

Web: www.samsung.com/uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/528224

Key specs: 2.7-inch widescreen LCD with touchscreen; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical zoom and 10x digital zoom; 80GB internal memory

+ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution

− Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight Samsung HD camera captures high quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a real plus point."

Canon HV30

★★★★½

Price: £582 **Reviewed:** Issue 201

Full review: www.techradar.com/468942

Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card

+ Superb stills & video; better than HDD; fast imports

− Cumbersome to use

Canon HG10

★★★★½

Price: £559 **Reviewed:** Issue 190

Full review: www.techradar.com/216960

Key specs: HD format; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom

+ Superb images; native support for *iMovie '08*

− Some ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

Apple AirPort Extreme Base Station

ISSUE 181

★★★★★

Price: £116

Web: www.apple.com/uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/31026

Key specs: 165x165x34mm; 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP (40/128-bit), WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

+ Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users

− UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables easy Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network setup in minutes."

Linksys Wireless-N Gateway WAG325N

★★★★★

Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 185

Full review: www.techradar.com/31179

Key specs: ADSL 2+ support; 802.11g/802.11b

+ Great spec; easy to set up; good transfer rates

− Not the best looking device

Apple AirPort Express

★★★★★

Price: £62 **Reviewed:** Issue 195

Full review: www.techradar.com/311070

Key specs: 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2

+ Easy to set up; *AirTunes* is great; supports Windows

− Still need to add a broadband router

STORAGE

Iomega 500GB MiniMax ★★★★★

ISSUE 182

Price: £80

Web: www.iomega-europe.com

Full review: www.techradar.com/226173

Key specs: 500GB capacity; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) and 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) data transfer speeds; *Dantz Retrospect* backup software; FireWire 400 cable

+ Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; perfect Mac mini shape; very fast

− Bit pricey

"The perfect companion to your Mac mini is now available with substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."

Iomega eGo Helium 320GB

★★★★☆

Price: £90 **Reviewed:** Issue 204

Full review: www.techradar.com/492523

Key specs: 320GB capacity; USB 2.0 interface

+ Pretty design; solid performance

− USB only; case scratches easily

Buffalo 500GB DriveStation Combo 4

★★★★☆

Price: £103 **Reviewed:** Issue 197

Full review: www.techradar.com/380224

Key specs: 1x USB 2.0; 2x FireWire 800; 1x FireWire 400

+ Lots of connection options; cheap;

− Can get hot; no LED indicator

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Adobe Creative Suite Std - Student	£159	£182.85
Apple Aperture upgrade from	£49	£56.35
Adobe Photoshop Elements v6	£49	£56.35
Filemaker Pro v10	£219	£251.85
Apple Logic Studio 8.0	£235	£270.25
Apple Final Cut Studio upgrade from	£248	£285.20
Nikon D60 with 18-55mm lens	£320	£368.00
Canon EOS 1000D body	£285	£327.75
Nikon D90 body	£575	£661.25
	Ex vat	Inc

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The programs you need. The computer you want. The best of both worlds. Run Windows on your Mac the Easy Way! The virtualization engine promises to use 15-30% fewer resources which means this latest version is faster and better than ever! Already the world's No. 1 selling Mac system utility, Parallels Desktop for Mac now has more than 1.5 million users worldwide and counting. Parallels Desktop 4.0 for Mac provides the complete suite of essentials to run Windows on Mac the easy, fast and powerful way. - Currently the best solution for running Windows on Mac!

Price when purchased with any Mac. Requires OS and CW installation.

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£34.24 Inc VAT (32.75€) • Exclusive Online Store Offer

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Microsoft Office Student Teacher Ed	£72.25	£83.09
Toast 10 Titanium	£59	£67.85
Intego VirusBarrier X5 Upgrade from	£27	£31.05
MYOB First Edge	£59	£67.85
Freeway 5 Express	£42	£48.30
Bento 2 by Filemaker	£22	£25.30
MacSpeech Dictate Edu from	£119	£136.85
Accountz Business Accountz	£49	£56.35

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SPEAKERS

Ferguson Hill FH007 ★★★★★

ISSUE 186

Price: £391
Web: www.fergusonhill.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/98316
Key specs: 2x high frequency horns; 2x bass speakers; 7Hz-20KHz (+/- 5dB); 8 ohms; 1x line in (stereo); 1x line in (stereo mini); 4x speaker outputs (mini); 1x subwoofer output; 4x 16W RMS

+ Great value; fabulous sound; easy to use and set up; stunning and strong
− Take up lots of desk space

"The stunning-looking FH007 system from Ferguson Hill redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."

Acoustic Energy Aego-M

★★★★★

Price: £126 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/100419
Key specs: Twin satellites and sub-bass; 90 RMS output

+ Look great; easy to use and set up; superb sound
− Not many extra features

Dynaudio MC15

★★★★★

Price: £686 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Full review: www.techradar.com/458611
Key specs: 55Hz-21KHz; 8 ohms; 2x50W RMS

+ Excellent sound; good design and build; easy setup
− Expensive

DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYERS

Apple iPod nano ★★★★★

ISSUE 201

Price: 8GB, £98; 16GB, £148
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/464874
Key specs: Silver, black, purple, green, orange, yellow, pink and PRODUCT (RED); 2-inch colour display; battery can provide up to 24hrs music playback or 4hrs video; 90.7x38.7x2mm; 36.8kg

+ Looks fab; great prices and capacities; vertical screen works well; accelerometer
− No charging via FireWire

"A beautifully evolved music player that should delight everyone. The available array of colours with this version are gorgeous, too!"

Apple iPod classic

★★★★½

Price: £159 **Reviewed:** Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/226641
Key specs: 120GB; black or silver; video playback

+ Phenomenal value; redesigned interface; good audio
− Must re-buy purchased games

Apple iPod touch

★★★★½

Price: From £156 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/464926
Key specs: 8,16 and 32GB available; WiFi browsing

+ Great touchscreen; decent memory size; new apps
− Not cheap!

iPOD ACCESSORIES

iSkin Cerulean TX+RX ★★★★★

ISSUE 193

Price: £91
Web: www.iskin.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/224088
Key specs: Turn iPod into a remote; 10m range; easy USB connection

+ Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
− High price

"This great little accessory offers a very obvious improvement over the way people normally use iPod speakers."

Griffin Clarifi

★★★★★

Price: £22 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Full review: www.techradar.com/476914
Key specs: iPhone 3G case; built-in macro lens

+ Macro lens for better quality close-ups; sturdy
− Nothing

Macally TunePro Flat Panel

★★★★★

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218943
Key specs: 33.5x11.5x13cm; 0.6kg

+ Great sound; good build; easy-to-slap snooze button
− Remote sold separately

MAC ACCESSORIES

Pro-Ject Debut III ★★★★★

ISSUE 200

Price: £195
Web: www.project-audio.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/102079
Key specs: Phono/USB turntable with integrated MM phono pre-amp, gold-plated RCA phono sockets, digitisation of analog signals for recording to disk, dust cover, available in matt black and silver.

+ Outstanding sound; high build quality; update-ready and tweakable
− Static crackle required codec update

"The Debut III Phono/USB turntable from Pro-Ject is an outstanding product –and that's before you've added a USB interface."

Line 6 Pocket Pod

★★★★★

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Full review: www.techradar.com/457821
Key specs: 300+ presets; 16 effects; CD/MP3 jack

+ Portable; good price; fully Mac-compatible
− Slightly clunky interface; lacks some pro functions

Imono HI-2503

★★★★★

Price: £17 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Full review: www.techradar.com/458087
Key specs: Supports 2.5-inch IDE/SATA; USB 2.0

+ Cheap; efficient; easy to use; supports IDE and SATA
− No protection from debris

HOME OFFICE

Apple iWork.com ★★★★★

ISSUE 205

Price: £FREE
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500393
System reqs: Any current web browser; Apple *iWork '09* needed to create documents to work on

⊕ Cross-platform; easy to use; good integration with iWorkUpdate
⊖ No synchronisation back to source; no creation or editing functions

"Apple's iWork.com is one of the easiest collaboration tools around, but lack of pricing makes it difficult to evaluate."

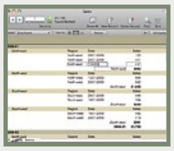
Micromat TechTool Pro 5

★★★★★

Price: £98 **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Full review: www.techradar.com/528167
System reqs: G4 or G5; 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9

⊕ Comprehensive tools; reliable performance
⊖ Won't book Oct '08 MacBooks; expensive

FileMaker Pro 10



★★★★★

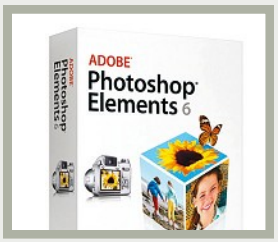
Price: £261 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500402
System reqs: G4 or G5; 256MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.11

⊕ Script triggers; customisable toolbar; built-in SMTP
⊖ Lacks platform-specific look and feel

VISUAL TOOLS AND LAYOUT

Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 ★★★★★

ISSUE 194

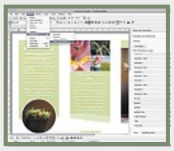


Price: £55
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/224437
System reqs: PowerPC G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); 64MB video RAM, 1GB available hard disk space; a DVD drive

⊕ Nice new interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves is a move forward
⊖ Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey is hard to see; takes over entire screen

"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."

Live Interior 3D Standard 2.0



★★★★★

Price: $50 (£33) **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500278
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.8; 1GB HD space

⊕ Lots of objects & materials; fast renders; good value
⊖ Can't create furniture; some features only in Pro

Softpress Freeway Pro 5

★★★★★

Price: £123 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311508
System reqs: Mac OS X10.4.11+

⊕ Improved performance; great new Actions
⊖ Single undos; lacklustre Graphics Actions

GAMES

Spore ★★★★★

ISSUE 201

Price: £29
Web: www.spore.com
System reqs: Intel Core Duo processor; 1.024MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.3; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or Intel Integrated GMA X3100, 4.7GB HD space for installation

⊕ Great looks; design your world; five great phases; variety of styles; accessible
⊖ Too simplistic?

"Spore is an amazing experience painted on a huge canvas, but in broad, simplistic brush strokes. It's an amazing accomplishment."

Jade Empire: Special Edition

★★★★★

Price: £35 **Reviewed:** Issue 204
Web: www.gametreeonline.com
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.4.11+

⊕ Great story; fun combat; entertaining guests
⊖ Relatively short

LEGO Indiana Jones

★★★★★

Price: £30 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.feralinteractive.com
System reqs: Intel 1.8GHz; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.8

⊕ Loads of levels; cooperative play; amusing in-jokes
⊖ Awkward keyboard controls; formulaic

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★

ISSUE 189

Price: £312
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/227009
System reqs: G4/G5 with 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 resolution screen; *QuickTime 7.2* or later; 7GB HD space; DVD drive

⊕ Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive new interface
⊖ Old users may baulk at the new-look interface

"Apple Logic Studio is an amazingly comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."

Apple iPhoto '09

★★★★★

Price: £69 (as part of *iLife '09*) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Full review: www.techradar.com/527969
System reqs: G4 or G5; 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.6

⊕ Practical new tools; new options to export slideshow
⊖ Faces could be better; few cameras have GPS

Apple iTunes 8

★★★★★

Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468551
System reqs: Intel/PPC G3+; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.9

⊕ Genius feature; HD movies on Store; Grid view
⊖ Genius recommendations affect performance

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Mac FORMAT

Games

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SNIPPETS

Indy Doghouse

Apologies to Feral Interactive. When we reviewed LEGO Indiana Jones we directed prospective buyers to Amazon, rather than straight to Feral themselves (**www.feralinteractive.com**). We urge anyone who wants to purchase this excellent game to go see the Feral website, given that they had the decency to bring us the game in the first place. Tune in next month when we will wrongly attribute Bob Dylan's *All Along the Watchtower* to George Formby.

The Prince and the Boarder

Drawing a veil over that appalling heading, we're pleased to report that Ubisoft is bringing two spanking-new big-name games to the Mac platform. The first is *Prince of Persia*. No not that one, the other one… no, not that one either. Or that other one. It's an all-new one. We'll clear up the confusion in next month's review. The other game is *Shaun White's Snowboarding*. No prizes for guessing what that one's about.

MMORPG

FusionFall

OUT… SOON

A colourful online game based on the Cartoon Network universe

Are you bored of the immersive adventuring of *World of Warcraft*? Do the sumptuous landscapes leave you cold? Have the fantastical creatures lost their ability to amaze?

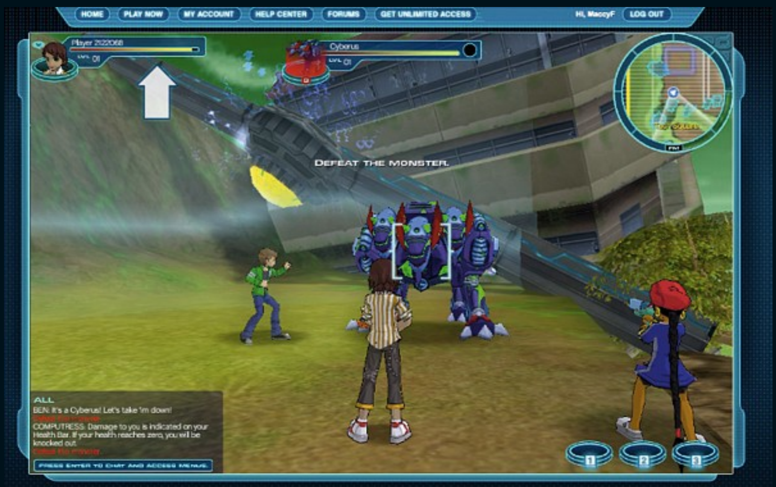
The answer to all of these questions is, of course, no. But there's room in our lives for more than one massively multiplayer online role-playing game, especially one that our kids can play without fear of having to unsuspectingly hang with fortysomething gamers posing as elfin she-paladins.

Enter *FusionFall*, an online game based on the Cartoon Network universe and featuring all the key elements of a decent MMORPG without the accompanying complexity that grown-up gamers demand.

> "It features highly entertaining segments that are absent from adult-orientated games"

The bad news is that it is currently only available to gamers in the US and Canada. But, should you want to check out *FusionFall*, the first step is to visit the site (**www.fusionfall.com**) and see what it's all about. Here you can discover the premise of the game, complete with anime-style graphics, browser-based gameplay, simple control systems, online chat, parental controls and a substantial free trial membership that enables you to play through a couple of dozen missions and interact with other players. It really is a delightful experience that's great fun to play, with tightly designed missions, a great combat system and superb power-ups via mini nano characters. It also features highly entertaining platform-gaming segments that are notably absent from other, more adult-oriented, online games.

Don't sign up for the free trial, though, oh no, because you'll be asked which US or Canadian state you live in and you really wouldn't want to fib, because that would just lead to a guilty conscience coupled with several days of unfettered gaming joy. Better to contact developers Majesco and try to persuade them to make sure the game gets a proper UK release as soon as possible. The campaign starts here folks. Send your emails to **sales@majescoentertainment.com** and type "FusionFall UK? BRING IT!" in the subject line. Your children deserve it.



ALL
BEN: It's a Cyberus! Let's take 'im down!
COMPUTRESS: Damage to you is indicated on your Health Bar. If your health reaches zero, you will be knocked out.

Defeating the monster is a cinch if you team up with your mates.

Summon up your nano characters for added oomph.

The simple controls are great for kids.

GOD SIM

Black & White 2

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£35 Lionhead's conflicted god-sim comes to the Mac. But will you be good or evil?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Lionhead Studios
www.lionhead.com
Vendor Feral Interactive
www.feralinteractive.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

1.8GHz Mac, 512MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.8, 128MG VRAM, 5.1GB hard drive space, DVD drive

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Great looks
- ⊕ Fun creatures
- ⊕ Simple controls
- ⊕ Be good or evil
- ⊕ Expansion pack included
- ⊖ Zooming and rotating is awkward

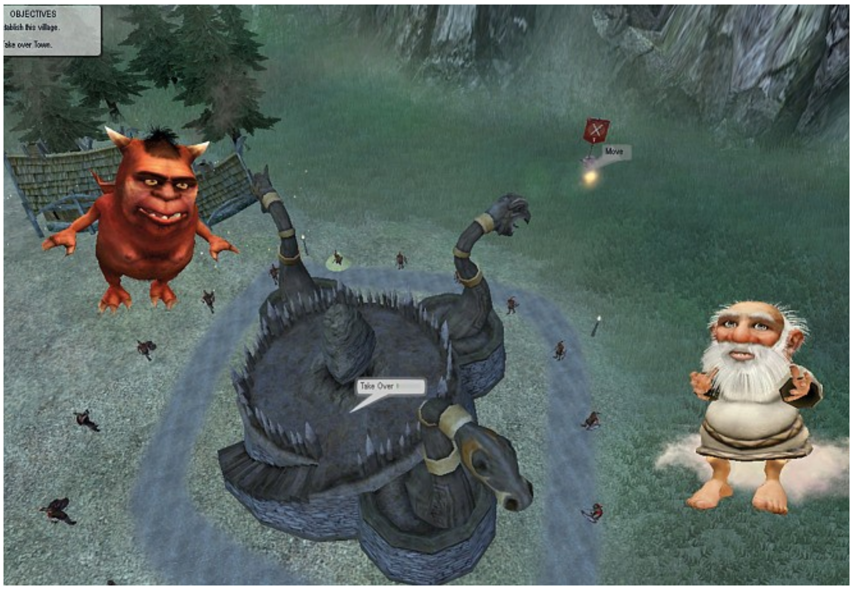
VERDICT

★★★★★

"Arguably a much better game than the original. If you haven't already experienced *Black & White*, do yourself a favour and get the sequel immediately."

Fans of the original *Black & White* will, without doubt, already have this sequel in their games collection so we'll approach this review on the assumption that you are new to Lionhead's amazing god-sim.

Though we've referred to *B&W2* as a god-sim, in truth it's several game genres rolled into one. The basic gameplay involves the building of a city and warfare, so there are elements of resource management and real-time strategy in there. In addition, each society has a creature that needs to be trained, fed and watered so there's a bit of virtual petting to be done too.



Being nice ain't all it's cracked up to be. Let's go and beat some people up and make the world a worse place to live in.

The plot unravelled

However, we're getting ahead of ourselves. Let's get back to basics. In *Black & White 2* you play the part of a god, a Greek god as it happens, who has to oversee the lives of his subjects and help them to achieve greatness. The way in which you have a hand in your followers' lives is dealt with in a literal way, every action you perform is carried out using an on-screen hand. Using this you can scroll around the environment, uproot trees to create timber, mine ore from rocks and harvest crops. All this enables your villagers to build structures like temples, houses and the like and to feed themselves. In the initial stages of the game this direct involvement in individuals' lives is very satisfying. However, as your population starts to grow, you can allocate townsfolk to perform specific tasks that they can continue to undertake automatically. So bunging people onto fields will turn them into farmers, dropping them onto trees turns them into foresters, placing them near rocks makes them miners and placing them on each other makes them breed, thus expanding your population still further.

> "Should you choose a darker route, you can build armouries, recruit soldiers and create armies…"

Building a happy functioning town with good facilities makes it a desirable place to live and, as such, neighbouring village populations might ask to become part of your populace. This is an excellent way to expand your empire without recourse to evil means. Which brings us onto the game's essence. In *B&W2* you have the freedom to choose how you want to develop as a society. It is quite possible to expand your settlement's sphere of influence by doing good deeds, building up your civic centres, keeping people happy, performing miracles and making your world a great place to live. Should you choose a darker route, though, you can build armouries, recruit soldiers, create armies then send them out to take other settlements by force.

Key to the game's success is the large segment of gameplay devoted to your creature. At the start of the game you get to choose from one of four creatures each with slightly different behavioural profiles. These creatures are relatively modest in size to begin with, but as they become more experienced so they grow, and grow, and grow to gigantic proportions. Their purpose is manifold. You can use them to entertain, to build, to gather resources or to fight. You can also allow them free will in which case they just go off and do their own thing. By rewarding certain actions and punishing others, you can modify your creature's behaviour to fall in with your desired alignment (good, evil or somewhere in between).

Many players of the first game were a little put off by its open-ended nature. That lack of focus has been remedied in the sequel by providing a narrative and defined challenges and goals. Purists might argue that this is a negative thing, but for our money, *B&W2*'s structure makes it much more of a game rather than a somewhat amorphous plaything.

It's also worth mentioning that this release also includes the *Battle of the Gods* expansion pack, which features a new foe with an army of the undead, a raft of new levels, new building types and the like. More of the same core gameplay essentially, which means as a combined release you get a lot more bang for your buck. If you have £35 spare, it couldn't be better spent. ●

Choose your creature and make it do your bidding. Will you keep it cuddly or send it into battle?

POINT-AND-CLICK ADVENTURE

A Vampyre Story

£20 A quality point-and-click adventure with a pure pedigree but some genetic flaws

CONTACT INFO

Developer Autumn Moon Entertainment
www.amegames.com
Vendor Virtual Programming Ltd
www.vpltd.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel or PowerPC G4 CPU, 1.33GHz or better, 512 MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or higher, GeForce 5200, Radeon 9600 or GMA950, 64MB VRAM 3GB hard disk space, internet connection for registration

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Built by experts
- ⊕ Nice storyline
- ⊕ Atmospheric looks
- ⊕ Fun puzzles
- ⊖ Odd inventory system
- ⊖ Annoying dialogue

VERDICT

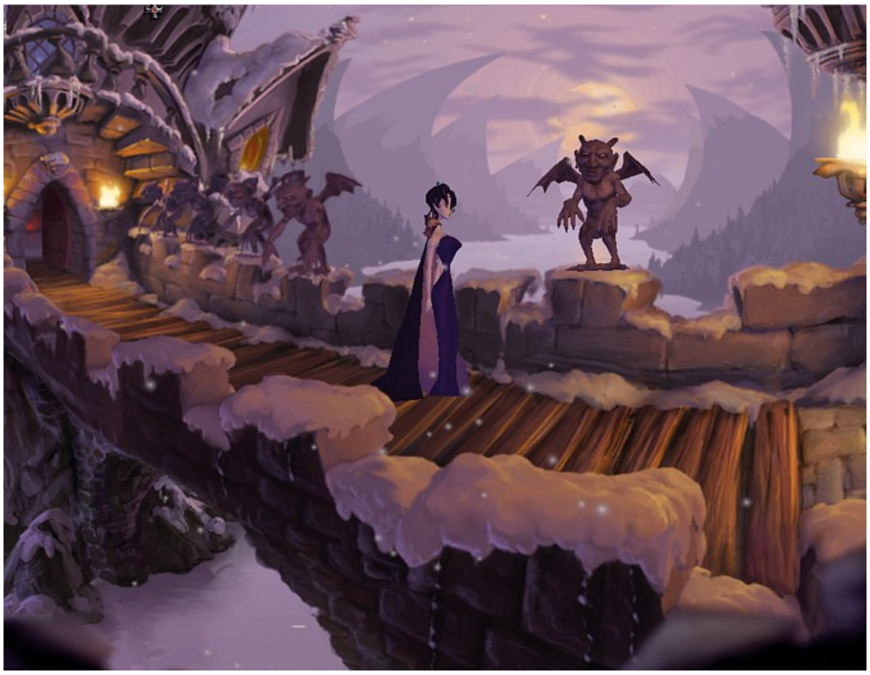
★★★★☆

"An excellent adventure and certainly more polished than Runesoft's *Ankh* series. But it's marred by overwritten dialogue and a rather silly inventory system."

The point-and-click resurrection continues. And, in this instance, resurrection is a pretty good word for it. Because, not only is *A Vampyre Story*'s central theme rooted in the dark lore of the undead, but its development team is headed up by industry old-timer Bill Tiller, whose CV – among other things – boasts the titles of Lead Background Artist on *The Curse of Monkey Island* and Lead Artist on *Indiana Jones and the Infernal Machine*. A strong pedigree, then.

Unwitty dialogue

Any point-and-click adventure is only as good as its story and fortunately *A Vampyre Story* delivers a cracking tale of music, love and life (of a sort). The game's protagonist is Mona De Lafitte, a young singer with aspirations to be a world-famous opera diva. Unfortunately, the vampire Baron Shrowdy Von Kiefer's twisted love for Mona leads him to turn her into a vampire and imprison her in his castle. Thus the scene is set for Mona – who can't quite come to terms with her recently acquired undead status – to plan her escape in order to pursue her singing career in Paris. She is aided and abetted in her quest to sing by her diminutive sidekick: a wiseacre bat called Froderick.



This gargoyle is a total pain in the backside. Let's hope he doesn't lose his head…

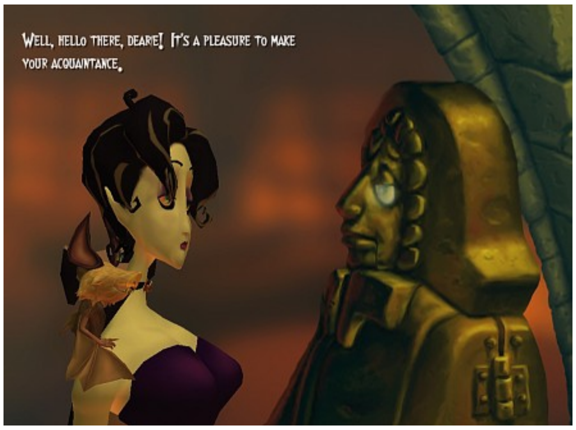
And here we encounter the game's first problem: the scripting. Unfortunately, classic adventure *Monkey Island*'s legacy is a double-edged sword. It seems that developers feel that any point-and-click adventure worth its salt has to be as hilarious as possible. The result, in respect of *A Vampyre Story*, is that the writers have ill-advisedly seen fit to crowbar an amusing comment or gag into almost every line of dialogue. On a superficial level this means that there are as many comedic misses as there are hits. On a more serious note it makes the exchanges between characters extremely clunky and time-consuming as they try to out-pun each other with every single utterance. Froderick the bat is especially guilty of contrived punnery, very much in the annoying style of any number of over-written Disney sidekicks. While this is not quite intrusive enough to spoil the experience, there are frequent moments when you just wish they'd cut to the chase.

> "Autumn Moon has made a curious attempt to reinvent the wheel as far as the inventory system is concerned"

Visually, *A Vampyre Story* is a more balanced affair. It's lovely looking with scenery and characters rendered and animated beautifully, painted in atmospheric palettes and subtly lit to pleasing effect. The gameplay doesn't stray too far from traditional point-and-click conventions, although developer Autumn Moon has made a curious attempt to reinvent the wheel as far as the inventory system is concerned. Rather than enabling the player to pick up anything and everything they find along the way and stick it in a backpack, here you can make a kind of mental note of the objects you find, which might be useful later. When an object's purpose becomes apparent you click on it in your inventory, at which point Mona travels all the way back to it to pick it up. We can only assume the purpose of this was to keep the inventory uncluttered, but instead all it achieves is the need to revisit areas twice as often as is absolutely necessary.

If all this sounds a little negative don't be too despondent. In truth, *A Vampyre Story* is highly recommended. It looks great, it's funny enough, and the engaging story leaves you hungry for the chapters that will surely follow. It's just that it's a bit too cocksure for its own good. If subsequent chapters rein in the attitude and concentrate more on engaging the audience's gaming interests, adventure fans should have a great deal to look forward to. ●

This iron maiden is surprisingly friendly for an instrument of torture.



WELL, HELLO THERE, DEARIE! IT'S A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

BOARD GAME

Scrabble Journey

Mac FORMAT On the disc

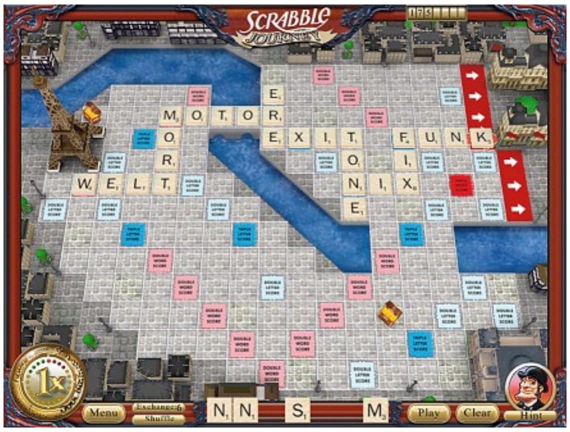
$20 (£14) Around the world in 80 days… playing Scrabble

We're all for anything that attempts to make *Scrabble* – the much-loved classic board game – more interesting, and *Scrabble Journey* is a pretty good attempt to do so. Rather than sitting opposite some *Scrabble* afficionado who's armed with a sordidly well-thumbed official *Scrabble* dictionary (is there anything more swotty you could have sitting on your bookshelf?), here you get to play alone. The only challenges you face being the game's levels and your own self-admitted vocabulary inadequacies.

The premise is borrowed from classic literature in that in order to join some dusty old league of master puzzlers, you have to prove yourself by circumnavigating the globe in 80 days or less. And for some inexplicable reason you do this not by taking to the air in a balloon, but by solving *Scrabble* puzzles based on the global locations you visit.

Each puzzle consists of a map of your location (the journey from the Eiffel Tower to The Louvre is pictured here) with a *Scrabble* grid laid over the top. Your aim is to get from the star on the left to the goal on the right by placing intersecting words in a continuous route across the map. All of this is easy enough, until the maps become littered with obstacles, narrow alleys and bridges, at which point your word choice and placement becomes quite a strategic affair.

If you get a bit stuck you can ask for help from your travelling companion and you also have the option of substituting unwanted tiles up to eight times per board. In addition, you can keep track of your *Scrabble* score along the way and even win trophies as you go. Scrabble fans will enjoy it as it's a neat way to hone their skills while others can simply appreciate it as a casual puzzler. ●



Travel across Paris by spelling stuff, preferably by using longer words than we have here.

CONTACT INFO

Developer Encore
www.encoreusa.com
Vendor GameHouse.com
www.gamehouse.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Power PC or Intel, Mac OS X 10.4.1 or better, 47MB hard disk space

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ It's ideal for *Scrabble* practice
- ⊕ There are dozens of boards
- ⊕ It involves some strategy
- ⊖ No opponents
- ⊖ Repetitive
- ⊖ Visually a bit ropey

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A smart puzzle game in its own right and a particularly neat way for *Scrabble* nuts to get in a bit of practice."

STRATEGY

Democracy 2

$25 (£18) Do you have what it takes to run a country?

This game is not for the faint hearted. Visually, it's dull. And in gameplay terms, well, it's also dull. Unless, that is, you have an interest in global politics.

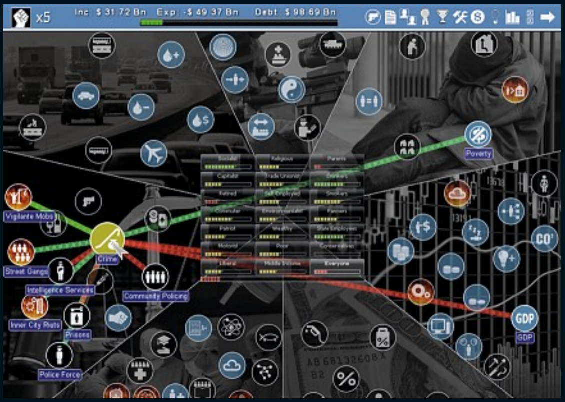
Any mainstream or tabloid journalist who dismisses videogames as worthless fluff would do well to spend time with *Democracy 2*. Granted, it's not going to provide any answers to the big questions facing our planet, and unlike Serious Game's *Global Conflicts* titles it won't give gamers a real insight into conditions on the ground in war-torn regions. But what it lacks in education it makes up for in its ability to make one think about the cause and effect of governmental actions, and the potential outcomes of domestic and foreign policies carried out by democratically elected representatives.

The premise of the game is to take on the role of a government, observing developing situations and modifying policies in order to tackle those situations. The idea is to keep the electorate happy, but in order to do so there's a lot of micro-management to be done.

The main screen is divided into segments representing foreign affairs, welfare, economy, tax, public services, law and order, and transport. Within these segments appear icons representing situations and stats icons.

Centre-screen gives info on how satisfied the segments of your electorate are, these segments being conservatives, the rich, the poor, farmers, parents etc. By changing the emphasis of policies you can have a knock-on effect on a variety of situations.

It's complicated, but if you have the patience, *Democracy 2* offers an intriguing glimpse at how tough it must be for a leader to juggle the many demands placed on them. ●



Take on the role of a government and keep all sectors of your electorate happy. Easy peasy.

CONTACT INFO

Developer Positech
www.positech.co.uk
Vendor Red Marble Games
www.redmarblegames.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4

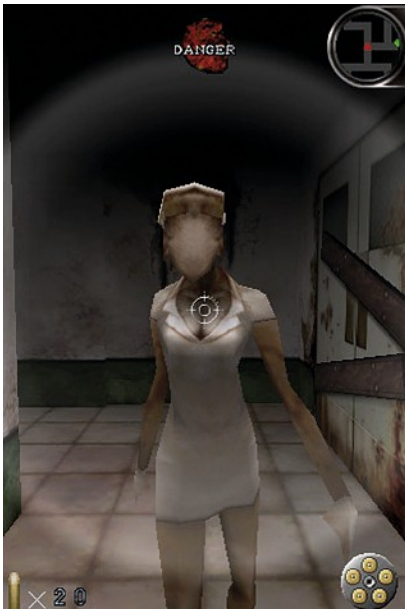
FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Intriguing premise
- ⊕ Simple interface
- ⊕ Real depth
- ⊕ Surprisingly addictive
- ⊖ No real levity
- ⊖ Dry as a bone

VERDICT

★★★⯪☆

"It could be a little prettier, and it's quite short on fun, but this is a satisfying sim for serious gamers."



ABOVE: It's not only a game – this friendly looking chap will give you nightmares for a week.

LEFT: Despite being faceless, Nursey still cuts a dash in her pretty uniform…

SURVIVAL HORROR

Silent Hill: The Escape

£3.49 Classic gaming horror comes to iPod touch

Konami has been giving gamers the shivers for years now, all thanks to the long-running success of its consistently spooky *Silent Hill* series of games.

The latest foray into the screwed-up world of *SH* is this cutdown handheld effort. Transferring the spooky atmospherics of the game to the small screen was always going to be a big ask, but to the developer's credit, *The Escape* – while clearly a casual game with no real depth to it – manages to convey at least a modicum of the unsettling qualities of its larger-scale counterparts. This is thanks to a graphical approach that constrains the player's movement to claustrophobic torchlit corridors and rations the action to only occasional yet jarring encounters with deformed nurses, possessed chairs, persistent bugs and the like.

The aim of the game is simple. You are presented with a maze and you have to first find a key before finding the exit to the next level. The tension is ramped up thanks to the aforementioned darkened hallways, sudden enemy encounters, as well as a limited amount of ammo with which to combat creatures.

The levels are pretty repetitive and each can be solved easily should you sketch out a map on paper. But to do so would be to go against the spirit of the thing. The fear that is generated relies on the feeling of being lost and having to search in the dark in order to escape. In this respect, *The Escape* is expertly constructed. After a few levels the mazes become disorienting and if you use headphones a sense of unease is generated.

It's a simple maze game, but even when you take into account its limitations, this is a worthwhile chapter of the *Silent Hill* canon. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer Konami
www.konami-europe.com
Available from the App store

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

iPhone 2.0 software
16.4MB

FOR AND AGAINST

⊕ Genuinely spooky
⊖ Short and limited

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A very basic maze game, but infused with the classic well-loved spookiness of the *Silent Hill* franchise."

ACTION

Up There

£1.19 The charming life of a red balloon

Filling even this small space with a review of *Up There* is a tall order. Not because it isn't worthy, but because there's so little to talk about. *Up There* begins with a helium balloon trapped in a house. When the balloon is released, tilt your iPod left and right in order to move the balloon up through gaps in shelves. Succeed in this endeavour and the next set of obstacles is a series of rafters in the roof. Break out through the top of the house and the branches of trees form the next set of things in the way. And so it goes on, ever upwards. The longer you ascend without getting trapped the more points you accumulate. Bettering your score and checking it against other players online is also addictive. ●

CONTACT INFO

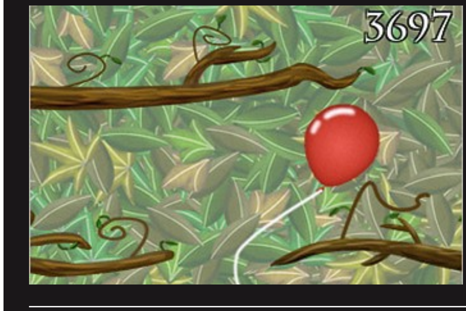
Developer Veiled Games
www.veiledgames.com
Available from the App store

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

iPhone 2.2 software
6.1MB

FOR AND AGAINST

⊕ Simple…
⊕ …yet brilliant



VERDICT

★★★★★

"On paper this is barely a game at all. But three weeks in we're still playing it. Five stars. No question."

Up, up and well away. This delightfully addictive game proves that simplicity can be the key to a cracking good game.

RACING

SlotZ Racer

£1.19 A game for racers with a one-track mind

Has anyone bought a Scalextric set in a flush of nostalgia only to find it a pain to set up and not much fun thereafter?

It's a common occurrence, but that won't happen with *SlotZ Racer* which is, essentially, a handheld version of *Scalextric*, without the setting up and dismantling palaver.

There's a large range of options available and multiple views from which to watch the action. The physics seem to be realistic with cars being controlled simply by pressing the corner of the screen and up to four players can race on the same iPod by taking a corner of the screen each.

It can be buggy, but mostly this is a lot of fun for a lot less than the price of a Scalextric set. ●

CONTACT INFO

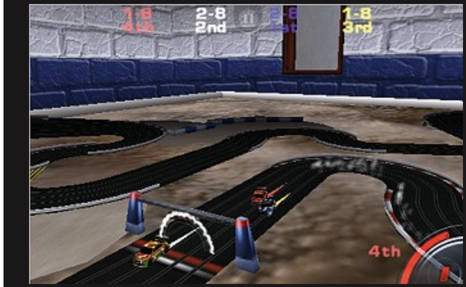
Developer Freeverse Games
www.freeverse.com
Available from the App store

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

iPhone 2.2 software
12.5MB

FOR AND AGAINST

⊕ Loads of championships
⊖ It's slot racing



VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It's Scalextric for those with limited room in their house or little time on their hands."

Get nostalgic without the irksome chore of setting up the track and rescuing cars from under the sofa.

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> "Do you know where your local Apple reseller store is? You should. What's more, I think you should make all your Apple purchases from them."

Graham Barlow - Editor MacFormat

On your Disc

This issue's disc is packed with three full programs, tutorial files, games trials, shareware and more

START HERE

Using the Disc

The *MacFormat* Disc comes with a superb interface menu that contains the serial numbers you'll need. Simply pop the disc into your drive, double-click the **disc** icon on your Desktop and a folder will open up. The next step is to double-click on the **MacFormat.osx** icon in order to launch the interface. Please be aware that *MacFormat* now supports OS X only, and that some programs may require internet registration to become fully functional. Full details are available on the disc interface.

Start up the *MacFormat* disc interface for more details.

DISC PROBLEMS?

If you are having difficulties using the disc interface or content, please visit our reader support website at **www.futurenet.co.uk/support**, where you'll find solutions to many commonly reported problems. If you still have problems, email our reader support team at **support@futurenet.co.uk** or call 01225 822 743 (Monday-Friday).

We can only provide technical support for the installation of software. We cannot give in-depth help on the apps, your hardware or operating system. For software-related issues, please contact the product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone. We provide technical support for this disc for six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

MacDisc
FORMAT
3 FULL PROGRAMS
Captain FTP 6
Language Alchemist 2
PLUS:

FEATURED SOFTWARE

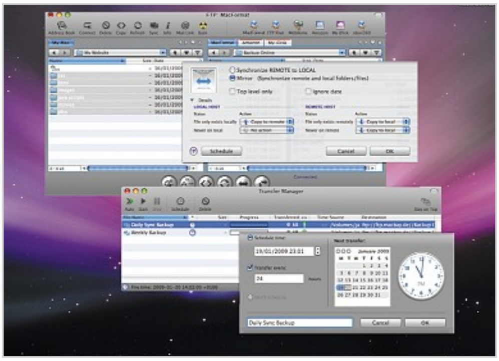
Access files remotely, translate text and protect email

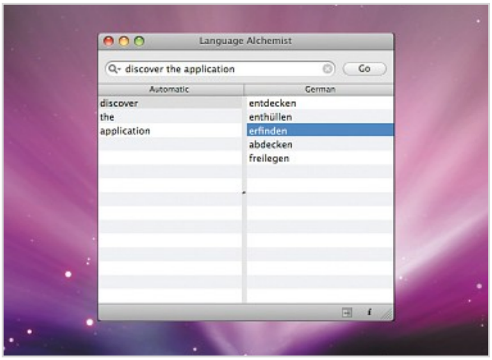
AS SOLD FOR £20

Captain FTP 6

Access files remotely with this full program

FTP, or file transfer protocol, is one of the oldest methods of copying files between servers. It's been around since the early days of the internet. Back then you were forced to connect to a server and navigate folder structures through a command prompt. Now there are far more usable methods, like *Captain FTP*, which offers a simple GUI for making it quick and easy to upload and download data from remote locations. You will need Mac OS X 10.4 or later to run *Captain FTP*.





Automatic	German
discover	entdecken
the	enthüllen
application	erfinden
	abdecken
	freilegen

discover the application

AS SOLD FOR £18

Language Alchemist 2

Translate text from more than 20 languages

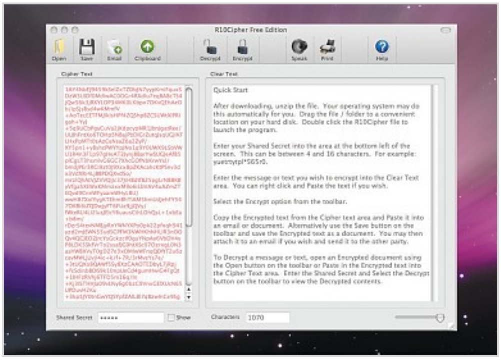
We often encounter web pages that don't have an English version of their site. Normally this requires copying and pasting from the web browser into *Babel Fish*. Then a fair amount of head-scratching takes place as the resulting English isn't the easiest to comprehend. However, this full version of *Language Alchemist* can be easily integrated with *Safari, Preview, Keynote* or *Pages*. This should save some time when translating. To run *Language Alchemist 2,* you need Mac OS X 10.4 or later.

AS SOLD FOR £14

R10Cipher 1.1

Protect emails from prying eyes

A regular misconception is that email is a secure method of communication, but it can be easily tampered with or read during transmission, and the stated sender may not be the real sender. Email is often compared to postcards when it comes to how open they are, which is why *R10Cipher* is valuable. It encrypts text using up to 128-bit Blowfish encryption. This can then be decrypted once it has reached its destination, assuming the recipient has a shared key. This software requires Mac OS X 10.4 or later.



Quick Start

After downloading, unzip the file. Your operating system may do this automatically for you. Drag the file / folder to a convenient location on your hard disk. Double click the R10Cipher file to launch the program.

Enter your Shared Secret into the area at the bottom left of the screen. This can be between 4 and 16 characters. For example: yuetrtytpl*SGSr0.

Enter the message or text you wish to encrypt into the Clear Text area. You can right click and Paste the text if you wish.

Select the Encrypt option from the toolbar.

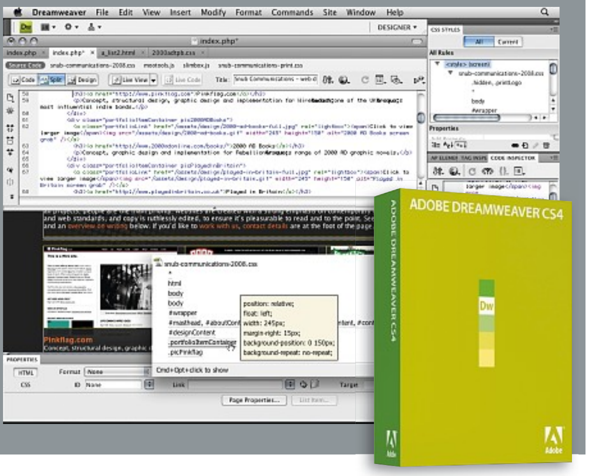
Copy the Encrypted text from the Cipher text area and Paste it into an email or document. Alternatively use the Save button on the toolbar and save the Encrypted text as a document. You may then attach it to an email if you wish and send it to the other party.

To Decrypt a message or text, open an Encrypted document using the Open button on the toolbar or Paste in the Encrypted text into the Cipher Text area. Enter the Shared Secret and Select the Decrypt button on the toolbar to view the Decrypted contents.

Characters 1070

OVERHAUL YOUR SITE

There are many development strands that can be taken when creating a website. *Flash* is one, which we covered last issue and provided content that could amount to a less static page. This issue we're giving you the chance to test drive Adobe *Dreamweaver CS4*, which has been the de-facto WYSIWYG web editor for some time now. As part of this web developer toolkit you'll also find the *Captain FTP* full product useful for uploading and overwriting files that have been amended. In addition, there's video training from Lynda.com on the latest *Dreamweaver*, and CSS templates to help with your design.


Dreamweaver File Edit View Insert Modify Format Commands Site Window Help
ADOBE DREAMWEAVER CS4
Dw

ALSO ON THE DISC

Resources, audio podcasts and more!

AUDIO NOVEL

7th Son: Book Three

Final part of dramatic trilogy

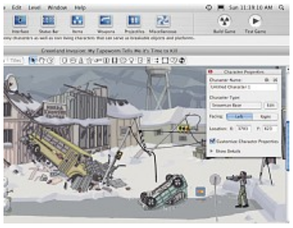
In the previous two issues we gave you the first two books in the *7th Son* trilogy. *Destruction* is the third and final book in this exceptionally tense series from author JC Hutchins.

RESOURCES

CSS templates

More than 100 layouts

If you want to design your own website but don't know where to start, these CSS templates from **www.freecsstemplates.org** will help. There's no need for coding or formatting.



DEMO

Power Game Factory

Build your own entertainment

Take a nostalgic trip down memory lane and design your very own side-scrolling game. *Power Game Factory 1.1* is a throwback to the 8-bit and 16-bit games consoles of old.

GAME DEMO

Monster Trucks Nitro

Racing simulation game

Power, jump and nitro-boost these four-wheeled brutes around an off-road track in an attempt to be the first to see the chequered flag. Be warned, though, it's seriously addictive.

BBC WORLD SERVICE
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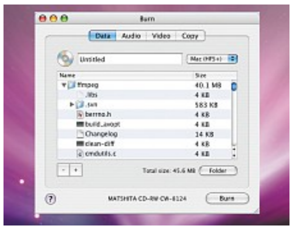
This Week
All your Apple news
MacFormat – This Week [Enhanced]

PODCAST

MacFormat This Week

Essential audio from the team

Once you've read the magazine, why not listen to our 30-minute broadcast from 9 February? Be sure to subscribe on *iTunes* so that you don't miss out in the future.



SOFTWARE COLLECTION

Top freeware

This month's best free apps

You don't always have to splash the cash to get useful software for your Mac. Try one of the top ten freeware applications that are on the disc, including *Burn, EverSave* and *YouView*.

DISC CONTENTS

Full apps, shareware, game demos and more

FULL SOFTWARE

Captain FTP 6
Language Alchemist 2
R10Cipher 1.1

SOFTWARE

Games trials

Adventure Chronicles 1.0
DQ Tycoon 1.0.1
Dream Day Honeymoon 1.0
Hoyle Puzzle Games 2009
Jewel Quest Mysteries 1.0.1
Married in Manhattan 1.0
Monster Trucks Nitro 1.31
Scrabble Journey 1.1.1

Recommended

Adobe Dreamweaver CS4
Language Alchemist X 3.1.2
R10Cipher 2.0

Top freeware

Burn 1.721u
DMG Canvas 1.0.5
EverSave 1.0.2
FinderPop 2.2
Integrity 3.1
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The Levelator 1.4.1
YouView 0.2

IN THE MAGAZINE

Cover feature

Accompanies feature on 25 new things to do with your Mac on page 28

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Podcast

MacFormat This Week
9 February 2009

RESOURCES

CSS templates
Destruction audio book
Dreamweaver CS4 training

READER OFFERS

Upgrade to R10Cipher 2

To upgrade to version 2 of *R10Cipher*, which includes file and document encryption, amongst many more powerful features, email **r10cipher_upgradeoffer@artenscience.co.uk**. Please make sure you state the voucher code **MF02**. You will be contacted by Arten Science with instructions on how to purchase at the discounted price of £10, reduced from £14.

Save 15% on Language Alchemist X

For a limited time, you can save 15% off the £20 retail price of *Language Alchemist X*. To claim the discount go to the store at **www.jalada.eu** and enter the following code in the **Discount Code** section: **BKBP001RM.**

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Mac FORMAT Disc

Issue 207 | May 2009

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3 FULL PROGRAMS

Captain FTP 6

Upload files to the web with this fully-featured, top-notch FTP program

Language Alchemist 2

A multilingual dictionary that integrates with Mac apps like *Pages* and *Safari*

PLUS:

Race giant trucks in Monster Trucks Nitro demo & much more!

Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but – as with any new software – we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

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Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

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MAC207 DISC

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Mac FORMAT Disc
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Language Alchemist
Monster Trucks Nitro demo
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SE1000XLR £107.65 inc. vat

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plugs into mic input on mac
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